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page 16

One year later
Massachusetts decision sparked marriage debate.

page 14



Sex education
Liam Neeson plays Dr. Alfred 'Kinsey.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

AIDS czar questions budgeting process

by Matthew S. Bajko

The health department's HIV prevention and AIDS services budgeting process has become too politicized and needs to be transformed, charged the mayor's adviser on HIV and AIDS policy this week.

With AIDS services on the chopping block to deal with a \$15.5 million 18-month deficit in the health department's budget, the mayor's AIDS czar, Jeff Sheehy, is raising questions as to why the HIV prevention budget was held harmless and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and AIDS Health Project, a part of the University of California at San Francisco, were spared from cuts in their funding while other agencies will suffer under the budget ax.

"The whole budget process has been politicized. The fact that prevention was taken off the list of cuts and the AIDS foundation and AHP were pulled back indicate that the process isn't proceeding in a transparent way and that people are exerting political influence so the cuts aren't taking place in a generalized, focused, strategic manner," charged Sheehy, a longtime AIDS activist who serves as an unpaid adviser to the mayor. He is deputy director for communications at UCSF's AIDS Research Institute.

On Tuesday, November 9 the Health Commission accepted the department's proposed list of cuts, which includes a \$703,169 cut to Shanti for its emotional and practical support; \$245,000 to Positive Resource Center for its re-entry to work program for people with HIV; and \$2.9 million to eliminate back-fill funding for Ryan White CARE Act services ranging from alternative therapies, meals, and legal assistance to case management services for people with HIV.

However, at the same meeting, the commissioners approved renewing a \$157,000 contract with Better World Advertising for an HIV prevention social marketing campaign; a new \$167,726 contract with the San Francisco Study Center to provide health planning and formative research for social marketing campaigns; and a new \$1,163,600 contract with the SFAF to provide client advocacy, benefit



Mark Gerber

Jeff Sheehy

by Kevin Davis

Gay members of the business and labor community are taking sides on the lockout of UNITE Local 2 workers by the 14-hotel multi-employer group, now entering its sixth week.

At issue are both health care and contract length. Last Friday, contracts ended when the employer group offered the hotel workers a health care proposal on a five-year contract.

Health insurance eligibility is one sticking point for part-time banquet waiters and room cleaners in the seasonal hotel business.

"A lot of these are banquet workers don't have the opportunity to work 40 hours per week so they would never qualify for insurance," said gay Castro resident Bradford Hague, a server and shop steward at the W Hotel, currently not locked out.

"For someone like me there are months when I work a tremendous number of hours," said Bruce Patterson, a banquet waiter and member of Pride at Work, an LGBT labor affiliate of the AFL-CIO. "Under the current proposal there would be several months a year I'm

not able to get health benefits. That would have a serious impact. They would never take into consideration the months I worked extra hours."

In the past, hotels "took care of the slower months," said Patterson. "It's been that way for decades."

Since their contract expired August 14, the hotel workers have been unable to put money into their health care fund. On December 1, the 4,300 workers will lose health insurance.

On Tuesday, November 16, Mayor Gavin Newsom announced that Kaiser Permanente has unilaterally agreed to step in and offer health care coverage to the locked out workers for two months, beginning December 1. Newsom himself has walked the picket line and urged both sides to enter into a 90-day cooling off period, which was unsuccessful.

"This action was taken without a payment plan figured out," said Alix Sabin of Kaiser Northern California's media relations office. "Kaiser is hoping to get the money figured out later. Kaiser has been the primary choice for hotel workers for 50 years, 80 percent of those locked out plus their family members – 8,000 Kaiser patients. Our main concern is taking care of health and well-being.

page 21 ►



Local 2 pickets outside the St. Francis Hotel in Union Square on Sunday.

Rick Gerharter

Tenderloin Tessie turns 30

by Zak Szymanski

Before there was the Castro and other gay-centric business districts, there was the Tenderloin, home to a diverse population that included all things edgy and underground. It was this district that gave birth to "Tenderloin Tessie," a punk-style drag queen who arrived in San Francisco as Perry Spink in the 1960s and who knew most of the neighborhood residents through her various bartending jobs.

One day before Thanksgiving in 1974, the story goes, Tenderloin Tessie was the recipient of numerous donated turkeys. With the help of her drunken patrons, she impulsively thawed and cooked them for those in need, "showing the Tenderloin community of San Francisco



Jane Philomen Cleland

Tenderloin Tessie volunteers with some of the fabulous food at the 2001 Thanksgiving dinner.

no matter who, what, how rich, destitute, alone, sick, shamed, or proud they were, there is someone who cares," said Toby Nelson, a longtime volunteer and current vice president of Tenderloin Tessie's Holiday Dinners, which now are held each Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. The dinners were named for their founder three years after Tessie's death in 1984.

Early on, Tessie prepared the dinners

monthly. "She fed the little blue-haired ladies in the neighborhood whose Social Security checks wouldn't last them through the month," said

Nelson. "They all knew her. She was nice to them. And they told some others about the dinners, and they told somebody else, and it just grew."

Tessie's dedication to the dinners earned her love and community honors, including the title of Empress XV in 1980. She continued her work with the dinners on the last Thursday of every month, said Tom Basch, president of Tenderloin Tessie's.

"It was magnificent. The seniors would

page 20 ►

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NEW!

Crystal campaigns spark mixed reactions

by Matthew S. Bajko

The city's "Crystal Mess" ads stopped many commuters at the Castro Muni station dead in their tracks. But after looking at the harsh imagery of meth addicts, viewers had divergent reactions to the campaign, which was aimed at getting speed users into treatment programs.

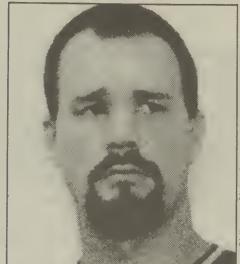
No sooner had the campaign gone up in late October than someone wrote in black marker "Don't shame me." More recently, another person pasted comments onto the ads which read "Not a Villain Not a Victim" and "No love, no compassion, no pride."

The anonymous person, whose e-mail address shockandawe@hotmail.com bounced back messages this week, also criticized District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty who has pushed the gay community and health officials to address crystal use by gay men. The critic also attacked the health department, which paid for the ads, asking in one posted note "Hey public health - where's the love? When did they teach you to reinforce the superiority of the service provider over the community?"

Steven Tierney, the department's director of HIV prevention, said the comments only go to prove that the campaign, which ended this week, accomplished the second part of its intended goal, to spark a dialogue in the community. As for the comments plastered on the ads, he said he disagrees with the criticisms.

"I am not sure what their problem is with the ads. Some people have a natural reaction to government, part of it is that," said Tierney. "The ads were not meant to judge anybody. From the response we have gotten, a lot of people recognize themselves or their friends in the ads. That is what the ads were designed for."

One recovering meth addict, speaking at a community forum Tuesday, November 16 about crystal campaigns held by the Stop AIDS Project, said seeing the city's ads "for me was like looking in the



Facilitator Michael Cooley

mirror. It is not a negative message. It is the reality of what speed does. I loved it."

The man added that he brought his friends down to the Castro Muni stop to see the ads. Hearing that someone had defaced the posters, he said, "Great. It affected this person. It made them think about it."

Another man said he had the opposite thought looking at the ads. "I thought, 'Oh that won't happen to me.' If you don't see yourself in those ads then they don't have an effect," he said.

About two dozen men, and one woman, attended the forum to give input as Stop AIDS develops its own "Are you up to speed?" campaign about the negative impacts of crystal use. The agency has already begun to put out posters informing the community about speed's impacts on gay men's health. In October, the agency stressed how 30 percent of new HIV infections are linked to crystal use.

This month, its poster highlights the fact that men who use speed are 400 percent more likely to get HIV than those who don't. However, the poster's imagery of a pipe being heated and crystal in smoke form billowing out came under criticism at the meeting.

One man said it made him want to smoke speed again. Another person said they didn't see the words, only the ad's visual component. Stop AIDS staff said the campaign is focused more on non-users or recreational users than addicts.

"That is where we see a niche,"

explained Michael Cooley, who help lead the forum. "We think it gets the non-addicts' attention."

As the agency develops its new campaign, Cooley said the goal is to transform the community's attitude toward crystal from viewing it as a party drug to seeing it as an unacceptable choice.

"The community hasn't made it unpopular to do speed," said Cooley, likening the agency's approach to anti-smoking campaigns. "Making it unpopular in the community, ultimately, is the long-term best way to fix this problem. If we speak to those who aren't using, it may be enough of a deterrent not to start."

Suggestions on accomplishing that goal ranged from petitioning craigslist.org and other online sites to remove ads that say PNP, code for party and play, which means using speed and having sex; hosting social events which are "Tina free zones," e-mailing or engaging crystal users who are online in chat rooms or sex sites in conversation; or launching a mentoring program for gay men moving to San Francisco who are seeking new social connections. In this way, the hope would be newcomers feeling isolated wouldn't turn to doing speed as an entree to meeting people.

Stop AIDS will launch its new campaign in early 2005 and is forming a community advisory board to help it craft its message and ads. ▼



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Shared responsibility

When Mayor Gavin Newsom's two tax measures went down in flames on Election Day, we knew the ramifications would be grim. Unfortunately for city residents, deep budget cuts are now a reality, and one of the casualties is funding for HIV/AIDS services.

Last week, the Department of Public Health announced that it is faced with a \$15.5 million deficit as a result of the defeat of the tax measures, which means several AIDS service organizations stand to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars that were added back during the budget talks earlier this year. Combined with a decrease in federal Ryan White CARE Act funding, some ASOs in the city already have drastically reduced client caseloads and laid off staff members.

But this week, Jeff Sheehy, who serves as Newsom's unpaid AIDS czar, raised some valid concerns about the budget process and asked questions that demand an explanation. Chief among Sheehy's concerns is that the health department apparently has decided to hold harmless its prevention budget. This week, we report that after agonizing public testimony at last week's Health Commission meeting about the cuts to ASOs, commissioners went ahead and approved new spending for prevention services, including a \$167,726 contract with the San Francisco Study Center to provide health planning and formative research for social marketing campaigns. While \$167,726 is a drop in the bucket of the health department, it's worth asking: what would the money be used for? A Google search revealed the study center "publishes and distributes multicultural curriculum materials, bilingual editions of Southeastern Asian folk tales and books of interest to human service professionals, nonprofit managers and educators under the names Many Cultures Publishing and Study Center Press. The study center also provides editorial and graphic design services to other

nonprofit organizations." The study center may indeed do valuable work, but in this day and age of new budget realities, we believe it should find private funding and that the Health Commission should take another look at its decision to fund it.

Sheehy is also concerned with increasing administrative costs of the HIV Health Services Planning Council, the body that prioritizes and allocates CARE Act funds. The planning council has two staff members now and wants to add a third. This, when CARE Act funds were cut this year and will be reduced next year, flies in the face of reason. The planning council is expected to meet next week and Sheehy hopes to discuss the staffing issue.

If people living with HIV/AIDS are to

suffer the effects of drastic budget cuts, we believe that HIV prevention organizations should share in the pain; but more importantly, politics needs to be taken out of the budget process. Allocations for HIV/AIDS services – care and prevention – should be based on science, need, and effectiveness, not subject to backroom deals. The city has until January 15 to finalize various budget cuts. It seems that now would be a good time to develop a fair process regarding the budget cuts. We have more people living with HIV and new infections continue to occur. The need for AIDS services is not getting smaller, but the funding pot is. City leaders and the AIDS community should step up to the plate and take a closer look at the state of AIDS services in San Francisco. ▼

Editorial



Gay marriage: Down, not out

by Paul J. Martinek

The movement for same-sex marriage in the United States took a licking on Election Day – but don't shed too many crocodile tears in your sour apple martinis. Not yet, anyway.

Granted, the re-election of President Bush didn't prompt many cheers in Provincetown or San Francisco. And gay activists' faces were longer than that of Senator John Kerry after learning that the GOP had picked up four Senate seats on the same night that antigay-marriage constitutional amendments were passed overwhelmingly in 11 states.

But there are three reasons not to get too distraught.

First, the states where bans on gay marriage (and in some cases civil unions as well) passed were not – with the sole exception of Oregon – places where same-sex couples had a lot of hope of getting their relationships recognized. Arkansas? Georgia? Kentucky? Mississippi? Montana? North Dakota? Oklahoma? Utah? Gay couples are lucky if they don't have rocks thrown at them in these red states, never mind rice.

Even Michigan and Ohio – two battlegrounds with moderate reputations that enacted marriage bans – are culturally very conservative. And the courts would be no help in these states. Republican appointees dominate the Supreme Court benches in these two states and the "Republican judges" in Michigan and Ohio must face the voters to retain their jobs. They are "real" Republicans, not the more liberal types found on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

States in the northeast that are friendlier to the gay marriage movement did not have constitutional amendments on the ballot this fall. These states are still ripe for change, as is California (potentially the biggest rainbow-wedding gift of them all).

The second reason not to get overly dependent is that the amendment to the U.S. Constitution supported by Bush was dead

on arrival in Congress earlier this year and the November 2 results did nothing to improve its chances. It takes a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate to pass a constitutional amendment. That's 67 senators – and the GOP only has 55 (including several who have already made clear they do not support amending the Constitution, no matter what Bush thinks). The House is only slightly more promising for amendment backers.

The third reason for tempering post-election pessimism is that it's entirely possible that all the state constitutional amendments outlawing same-sex unions will some day (perhaps some day soon) be found to violate the federal constitution. In other words, the U.S. Supreme Court could very well recognize a constitutional right to same-sex marriage.

Granted, the conventional wisdom is that Bush is going to get to choose one, two, or even three Supreme Court justices in the next four years – and that would guarantee a court that is hostile to gay rights.

But that conventional wisdom is flawed because it assumes that Bush's appointees will be as conservative as Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas. The reality, however, is that Bush will almost certainly not be able to appoint someone like Scalia or Thomas because the Senate Democrats – even with their diminished numbers – still have more than enough votes to block a nominee with a proven record of strict adherence to very conservative judicial principles.

It's more likely that Bush will appoint a mainstream conservative judge like Sandra Day O'Connor or Anthony Kennedy – two justices who are hardly radicals but who have an open mind when it comes to civil rights cases.

And there's always a possibility that Bush could appoint someone who turns out like David Souter or John Paul Stevens, arguably

the two most liberal justices on the current court. Everyone forgets that both Souter and Stevens were appointed by Republican presidents (the first President Bush in the case of Souter and Gerald Ford with respect to Stevens). Both Souter and Stevens were thought, at the time of their appointments, to be solid mainstream conservative judges (many feared Souter would be a Scalia clone), but they "evolved" on the court in a way that brings smiles to folks at the American Civil Liberties Union and the Human Rights Campaign.

Finally, when thinking about the Supreme Court vacancies, it's important to remember who's being replaced.

Chief Justice William Rehnquist – who appears to be gravely ill – is part of the ultra-conservative wing of the court (along with Scalia and Thomas). Even if his replacement is a conservative, that judge is likely to be less conservative than Rehnquist. Justice O'Connor, the other judge seen as a good bet to step down soon, is more moderate than Rehnquist. But, as noted, her successor is likely to come from the same mold.

So if Rehnquist and O'Connor depart, the new court could actually turn out to be somewhat more moderate.

Justice Stevens, the one liberal justice who Bush could potentially replace, is 84. That's old – even in the straight community! But Stevens is a very spry 84 and people who know him think he's not likely to leave during the Bush administration unless a sudden physical illness makes it impossible for him to continue.

So cheer up, same-sex marriage fans. And remember Justice Stevens in your prayers. ▼

Guest Opinion

Paul J. Martinek is a lawyer and writer in Boston. He can be reached at pjmartinez@hotmail.com.

LETTERS

Tired of being a wedge issue

Born and raised in a conservative area of the East Coast, I have been a registered Democrat for over 25 years and have voted in every election since 1980. I consider myself a fiscal conservative and social moderate to progressive, depending on the issues. I am a regular churchgoer and active in civic activities. I am also a single gay man who has been happy to call the Bay Area home for over six years. I've never been a political activist, until now.

I am angry and dismayed, not only because of the results of the election, but also at the Democratic Party leaders who have made the LGBT community the scapegoat for its most recent loss. The LGBT community is a core base of the Democratic Party and many of my friends spent hours writing letters and calling voters in swing states to encourage their vote. Most did this, knowing that John Kerry was no more in favor of gay marriage than his opponent, but anxious for a change in leadership.

Using the gay marriage issue as an excuse for the failure of the Democratic Party to gain the White House and control of Congress makes me livid. Party officials should be looking to themselves for this loss, with a lack of a national agenda and inability to focus on the real issues facing all of us. The LGBT community, as well as other minorities, will always be used as wedge issues in campaigns; we just do not expect it to come from those we thought we could trust and admire.

And if our own Senator Dianne Feinstein feels it necessary to join this finger pointing exercise with other Democratic leaders, she may find herself going the way of Tom Daschle come election night in 2006. There are a number of other candidates that the LGBT community can vote for – Republican and Democrat – so beware biting the hand that feeds you, senator.

Michael Bankert
San Francisco

Long struggle ahead

The publisher in his piece "The blame game" [Editorial, November 11], states "Equal rights for all Americans has been an American value ... since the founders wrote the 14th Amendment guaranteeing equal protection of the law." Unfortunately our founders only saw fit to give white men equal protection in the Constitution and only after 650,000 American's died, during the Civil War, did the 14th Amendment become law. Further, it took blacks 80 years to see their freedom and 170 years to see full political and civil rights in this country.

What makes us think we will far better in our struggle for gay rights, especially when we had the motto "anyone but Bush"? What a moronic position to have for electing the most powerful man in the world to be president.

John Trompeter
San Francisco

Don't blame the queers

In response to A. Risdorfer, from Dayton, Maryland [Mailstrom, November 11], I simply have to say, I sure hope s/he isn't queer. If so, I'd say that is the worst case of internalized homophobia I've ever seen. Blaming San Francisco and Massachusetts for losing an election that was won on hatred (and possibly a little help from magic voting machines), is playing into the homophobia Karl Rove was counting on in this election. Yes, it appears that a lot of voters turned out because of their "moral" values. But the moral issues that were actually being debated (Bush and Kerry agreed on same-sex marriage – they are both against it) were actually abortion, stem cell research, and safe gun ownership. Why is it that we are being blamed for going ahead with a process that has been happening for as long as I can remember?

The LGBT struggle for equality is one that has been fought long and hard for many years. This is not a new fight. Remember Hawaii? If Hawaii had been successful in its fight for marriage equality and Al Gore lost in the wake of that victory, would we have been blamed then as well (knowing now that that election was stolen)?

It's so easy to just blame the queers in San Francisco and Boston. Well, the fact is, if we really want to find someone to blame we should first start with the Republican National Committee, which stooped to low, dirty tactics to win this election for their candidate.

Look at Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California), who has never been a friend of the LGBT community, but yet consistently gets our support. What about Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), and all of the other Democrats who tried to distance themselves from Gavin Newsom after his courageous actions last February. Rather than align themselves with a modern-day hero, they dropped him like a hot potato. What kind of message are they sending to Middle America about rights for same-sex couples?

Rick Kappra
San Francisco

Rights on hold

Our time has not yet come to win the cultural war. The LGBT community was bitched slapped by the rest of the country on election night. Nine of the 11 states that antigay marriage proposals on the ballot voted Republican, what does that tell us? There is a great deal of ignorance and hate in Middle America for our communities. We need to address how to change the perception that we are very different from them, other than we can think.

I believe that my rights and those of my gay brothers and sisters have been put on hold – at least temporarily. The Republican Senate and House seats have increased and we have an ultraconservative president. Bush will now appoint at least one and maybe three Supreme Court justices. After we get up from this beating, we need to proceed more cautiously about change. We should never abandon our pursuit of increasing our rights, but we have to try and understand how rapid change is interpreted as in-your-face policies on a national basis. We should work to get civil unions that have all the rights of "marriage" and not worry about what's it's called as long as we get those rights.

Steven D. Arias
San Francisco

Not surprised with GOP tactics

I am not a great believer in marriage, gay or otherwise, in large part because I don't believe in the "sanctity" of a man-made institution with a 50 percent failure rate. The five members of my immediate family have 14 marriages between them, so it's hard to take seriously the notion of it being anything more than an easily broken legal contract between two people.

That said, I was dismayed but not surprised at how Republicans once again used fear of homosexuals as the wedge that ensured passage of constitutional bans against gay marriage and in the process, re-elected one of their own to the White House. My own home state of Georgia passed an antigay marriage amendment that further precludes civil unions, thereby eliminating the possibility of ever granting to gays the many legal and economic advantages of the marriage contract.

I was supposed to attend a nephew's wedding in Georgia in January, but have decided that it would be hypocritical to do so now. Had Georgia simply outlawed gay marriage, I would likely still be planning the trip, under the assumption that the "religious" part of marriage was what precluded voters from allowing gays to join in. But since civil unions were also outlawed, well, I'll just stay in the blue state of California where, as with the stem cell initiative, we sometimes consider the well-being of others to be more substantial than our own self-interest.

To those who voted for marriage laws and George Bush on "moral" grounds, I say that I, too, cast my vote for moral reasons, ones far more momentous than who marries whom. I find highly immoral the many lies Bush told to get American out of Afghanistan (where we belonged) and into Iraq (where we do not); the resulting deaths of our troops; the outrageous sums of money handed out in no-bid defense contracts; and the colossal debt resulting from Bush's blunders.

Jeff Stallings
San Francisco

Alarming developments at theater

The departure from the Castro Theatre of many of the dedicated, knowledgeable, and professional staff is alarming and creates a deep concern for the theater's future as a San Francisco cultural institution [Cloud hangs over the Castro Theatre, November 11].

Recent events at the theater bring to mind the not-too-distant turmoil at the new main public library. Due to shortsighted planning and limited space in the new building, librarians were quietly ordered to jettison tens of thousands of titles, many chosen at random, simply because they did not "fit" the new plan. Thanks to the hard work and loyalty of the library staff, the dumping was exposed and many of the books saved.

The theater staff members, particularly the recent cadre, are its librarians, and it has been well served under their educated stewardship. Clearly, all institutions must change in time, but there is always a choice for how to change. One cannot help but think that when the chosen course leads to the loss of so many talented staff – who for so many years have continued, as happens in most cultural institutions, to sacrifice pay for love-of-cause – that the choice was not a good one.

I urge the theater ownership to reconsider its current course and call upon local cultural workers to help protect the theater's imperiled legacy.

Blake Riley
San Francisco

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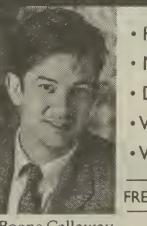
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Overcoming the red-state blues

by Paula Martinac

Why Kerry Lost," "Kerry Really Won," "23 Percent of Gays Voted for Bush," "How to Immigrate to Canada," E-mail messages with tormenting subject lines like these, sent by various progressive groups and individuals, have been landing in my mailbox at a fast and furious pace. Despair on the left is widespread, because so many of us considered this election to be the most important one of our lives, and now we're rushing to analyze what the results mean for our future.

Much of the spin from the left seems to follow one of two strands: either Americans are too stupid to understand that the country is sliding into fascism, or else Democrats simply failed to give voters a viable alternative to Bush. That stark dichotomy reminds me of those funny "critical issues" books we read in high school history classes, the ones with titles like "Napoleon: Revolutionary or Despot?" that never allowed for a gray area in between the two choices.

Now, in our despondency over Kerry's loss and the passage of all those antigay marriage amendments, we may not be able to see any bright spots amid the gloom — and believe it or not, there are a few. And no, I haven't changed my name from Paula to Pollyanna; I went trawling for positive things to cling to so that I wouldn't go insane, and I offer them here for you to cling to, too.

1. A number of openly lesbian and gay Democratic candidates either won historic victories or made impressive showings in local races in areas of the country where they should have lost big — the red states. Consider, in particular, three courageous lesbian candidates. Nicole LeFavour won a seat in the Idaho House of Representatives, becoming the first out gay official in that conservative state. Julia Boeseman garnered a place in the state Senate of North Carolina and will be its first LGBT legislator. On Bush's home turf, Lupe Valdez becomes the out les-

bian Latina sheriff of Dallas County, its highest-ranking law-enforcement official. Keep in mind that these states aren't just red; they're deep crimson.

The courage of these women is precisely what we'll need to see more of in coming months and years, since a big Republican win calls for a big progressive response. That includes many more gay people running for office. Local

races matter greatly, since laws that affect our daily lives are made in the state legislatures. But also, as we saw this year with the amazing

Barack Obama in Illinois, local political bodies can become steppingstones to national office.

2. Another ray of hope is that there was no antigay backlash at the polls in Massachusetts, the state that sparked same-sex marriage furor across the country. Every Massachusetts state legislator who upheld

gay marriage rights won re-election, and the antigay House speaker has been replaced by one who supports gay rights. The state's proposed constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage may be scrapped. Could it be Bay Staters have realized that living next to married same-sex couples is not very different from living next to unmarried ones?

3. Although the mainstream media only reported on the gay movement's crushing defeats in 11 states, exit polls conducted by the National Election Pool found that an astounding 60 percent of Americans support some sort of legal protection for same-sex couples. While only 25 percent said that protection should take the form of marriage, another 35 percent favored civil unions.

Of course, "marriage lite" is not what we want or deserve. Still, the NEP poll numbers are encouraging because they point to

Americans' fundamental belief in basic civil rights. And that belief is what we must hang on to as we continue the struggle for full equality under the law.

4. In Ohio, four major public universities whose domestic partner benefits have been jeopardized by that state's antigay marriage amendment have vowed to preserve those benefits until forced to do otherwise. Governor Robert Taft (R) has also opposed the antigay measure, fearing that it "will make it more difficult for us to retain and attract the young, talented knowledge workers we need to advance Ohio's prosperity." When straight people begin to see gay rights as being in their own self-interest, it's a sign that we're making progress — even when it looks like we've lost.

These few glimmers of hope may not seem like much after such a huge blow; but remember that the path of social change proceeds like a glacier — slow and steady. Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton worked their entire lives for women's suffrage, but didn't live to see it. Similarly, most of us who work for equal marriage rights may never enjoy them ourselves, but we will, in fact, have helped to change the world. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of *Q Syndicate*. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

Marlena's happy day



Grand Duke Mike Manicotti, left, and Grand Duchess Sophiya Leggz present an award to Empress XXV Marlena in a meeting of San Francisco's two court systems Sunday, November 14 that marked Marlena's 65th birthday. The event, held at Marlena's bar, naturally, was packed, and included many royals, more than 30 of whom performed in a special birthday show.

Rove touts marriage ban

by Wayne Friday

Those who still insist the same-sex marriage issue was somehow overblown as a factor in the re-election of **George W. Bush** have only to listen to **Karl Rove**, the president's chief political adviser and the man most credited for having the same-sex marriage issue strategically placed on 11 state ballots at the same time the nation was voting for a president. Rove told *Fox News Sunday* last week that Bush "absolutely" will push for a constitutional amendment that says marriage consists only of the union between a man and a woman and he told the *New York Times* that "this is an issue on which there is a broad consensus," boasting that "in all 11 states, it won by considerable margins; people do not like the idea or the concept of marriage as being a union between a man and a woman overturned by a few activist judges or a couple of activist local officials."



Karl Rove

Claiming that same-sex marriage has indeed become a national issue, Rove said, "You're starting to see some growth of the Republican Party in places where you might think there was no chance for such growth." According to the *Times*, Rove appeared to stifle a grin when asked directly whether he felt "indebted" to San Francisco Mayor **Gavin Newsom**, who opened City Hall to gay marriages until he was blocked by a court, and to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, for ruling that gay couples have a right to marriage.

"If you look at things that intrude into American politics through a non-traditional method - through a judicial vein - they tend to have a huge impact," Rove boasted.

Meanwhile, organizers of the first national gay and lesbian conference since the election, held last weekend in St. Louis, admitted that the resounding voter passage of gay marriage bans in all 11 states in which it appeared has been hard to bear, and is leaving gay advocates both devastated and fearful. "Our movement needs to regroup and buckle down," said **Sue Hyde**, director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change conference held last week in Missouri, a state that had already passed an antigay marriage constitutional amendment. Some 2,000 people attended the St. Louis conference and organizers believe the state measures passed by voters will be interpreted very broadly to prohibit recognition of gay and lesbian relationships and families. Many conference attendees anticipate that the Bush administration will most certainly push hard for the constitutional ban on gay marriage, something that has already been made abundantly clear by the president himself. LGBT activists, recognizing that the battle for so-

cial justice and legal rights following the November 2 vote, appears to be "extremely uphill," nevertheless warned that the gay rights movement cannot for a moment retreat from working for social justice and legal rights.

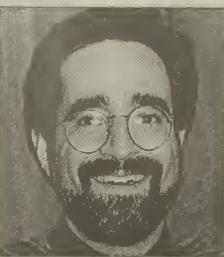
According to the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political action committee, 40 gay and lesbian candidates were elected to local, state, and federal offices on November 2, the same day voters approved state constitutional amendments banning gay marriage in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Utah. Six other states already had passed similar measures.

In San Francisco, former Mayor **Willie Brown**, a longtime supporter of gay rights, said on television Sunday that he "suspected" that "two-thirds of the states will have enacted some version of a ban against gay marriage by the 2006 mid-term elections."

Make no mistake, Rove, Bush and the Republican Party are now controlled by the religious right and have seized on a very hot political issue. Like it or not, a constitutional amendment is very much a reality in this country under the Bush administration during the next four years.

Politics and people

Those around City Hall tell me that District 3 Supervisor **Aaron Peskin** will likely replace **Matt Gonzalez** as the new president of the incoming Board of Supervisors. Peskin's a smart, serious legislator who works hard.



Supervisor Aaron Peskin

In Sacramento, a recall campaign was launched last week against Superior Court Judge **Loren McMaster** by the Campaign for California Families; the judge is accused of "trampling upon traditional family values" because he upheld AB205, the new state same-sex domestic partner law. Attorney General **Bill Lockyer** condemned the effort, saying, "Our courts are not bound by the dictates of focus groups ... When a group threatens to recall one judge because they disagree with a ruling, they threaten all judges."

And the country lost its only openly gay governor Monday when New Jersey's **Jim McGreevey** turned over the governor's office to fellow Democrat **Richard Codey**. McGreevey's departure speech to an invited Trenton crowd highlighted changes in his state's child welfare agency, environmental protections, the nation's divided political climate, and his thoughts about being "an American who just happened to be gay and proud."

Though California went overwhelmingly for Democrat **John Kerry** in the presidential contest,

and while the heavily Democratic coastal regions of the state still determine the outcome of statewide elections, the state's fastest-growing Republican regions - the Central Valley and the Inland Empire - represent a growing "red" influence in the otherwise "blue" state.

George Bush's pick for attorney general, **Alberto Gonzales**, the son of Mexican migrant workers, is not much better than outgoing AG **John Ashcroft** in the minds of most, but he can be counted on to put the interests of Bush and the White House first. The ultra-right, soft-spoken attorney is probably best known in Texas as the smart lawyer who cleverly shielded his

boss, the then-governor, from legal and political trouble over an old arrest for drunk driving. In 1996, midway through his first term as Texas governor, Bush was seen as a rising star in GOP circles with

a clear shot at the White House if his tenure in Texas proved to be a success. That fall (according to the *New York Times*) Bush was called to serve on a jury in Austin in a trial of an accused drunk driver. "I'm just an average guy showing up for jury duty," Bush told reporters. However, while Bush was talking to reporters in the hallway, Gonzales was meeting behind closed doors with the judge and the defense lawyer, **David Wahlberg**. Gonzalez argued that because the governor held the power to pardon a defendant, it would be inappropriate to have him also decide his guilt or innocence. While the contention seemed novel, the defense lawyer agreed to dismiss the governor as a potential juror. Bush thus avoided the need to answer questions under oath about whether he had ever been arrested for drunk driving. "He [Gonzalez] snookered all of us," defense attorney Wahlberg later told *Texas Monthly*.

The San Francisco chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans will hold its 27th annual banquet Saturday, December 4 at the Pan Pacific Hotel; cocktails at 6:30 p.m., dinner at 7:30. The guest speaker will be Representative **Mary Bono** (R-Palm Springs). Tickets are \$100 per person; (415) 765-5836 for info and tix.

In Santa Monica, **Bobby Shriver**, Maria's brother (yes, he's a Democrat) led all candidates and won a seat on the City Council; look for a political career from this guy.

The incoming U.S. congressional lineup: 55 Republicans, 44 Democrats, and 1 independent in the U.S. Senate (a gain of four Republicans); while the GOP stretched its majority in the Senate, it will still be five votes short of the margin needed to break a filibuster. In the House, there will be 231 Republicans, 201 Democrats, two independents, and two "undecideds," a pickup of five GOP seats.

Gay conservative writer and pundit **Andrew Sullivan** predicted on NBC's *The Chris Matthews Show* Sunday that the long-held story about Matthew Shepard, the gay student who was murdered by gay-bashers in Laramie, Wyoming "about to become unraveled," adding that it "is a much more complicated story that we've been led to believe." Sullivan said nothing more, but seemed to be suggesting that Shepard wasn't the martyr he has been portrayed to be. ABC's *20/20* is set to air a special on the case November 26.

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Why is Rita Mae Brown famous?

by Liz Highleyman

November 28, 1944 (60 years ago this month): Author and activist Rita Mae Brown is born in Hanover, Pennsylvania

Rita Mae Brown's groundbreaking book, *Rubyfruit Jungle*, may well be the most widely read lesbian novel ever written. Published in 1973, the book was embraced by the lesbian-feminist movement, of which Brown was a key figure.

Brown was born November 28, 1944, in Hanover, Pennsylvania, and was put up for adoption by her unwed teenage mother. When she was about 11, Brown and her adoptive family moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where, at age 16, she had her first sexual experience with a girlfriend from school. In 1964, as a student at the University of Florida, Brown had her scholarship revoked for taking part in civil rights activism, and she was forced to leave school. She later hitchhiked to New York City, where she briefly lived in an abandoned car in Greenwich Village.

While attending New York University in 1968, Brown started the second-ever chapter of the Student Homophile League, which had been founded the year before at Columbia. She claimed to be "one of two women, I expect" who participated in the June 1969 Stonewall riots. Brown also joined the then-new National Organization for Women, challenging the group by openly declaring her lesbianism.

Soon, though, Brown grew tired of both the male dominance of the new gay liberation organizations and the heterosexism of the incipient women's movement, and began to focus on lesbian-specific activism. She was a founding member in 1970 of Radicalesbians – originally named the Lavender Menace after a negative comment about lesbians in the women's movement by NOW founder Betty Friedan – and co-authored the group's manifesto, "The Woman-Identified Woman." At the Second Congress to Unite Women in May 1970, Brown and about 20 other lesbian activists carried out a visibility action, in which they wore "Lavender Menace" T-shirts and carried signs bearing slogans such as "We are your worst nightmare, your best fantasy." The following year, NOW voted overwhelmingly to include lesbian concerns in its platform.

After moving to Washington, D.C., to continue graduate school, Brown co-founded the Furies, a lesbian separatist collective. Calling for an autonomous lesbian-feminist movement, she declared that the difference between heterosexual women and lesbians



Rita Mae Brown

was "the difference between reform and revolution."

Brown achieved her greatest fame when, in 1973, she published her groundbreaking debut novel, *Rubyfruit Jungle*, the title of which refers to women's genitals. The book tells the story of Molly Bolt, whose life mirrors Brown's in many respects. Molly also was adopted and grew up in the South. Independent, strong-willed, and unapologetically lesbian, Molly has affairs with a sixth-grade classmate, the head cheerleader in high school, and an alcoholic heiress roommate in college, which leads to Molly's expulsion from school and rejection by her mother. Molly then hitchhikes to New York City, penniless, hoping to become a famous filmmaker. There, she has a series of (often improbable) affairs and adventures before finally leaving to seek her fortune in California.

Rubyfruit Jungle is regarded as a prime example of a "picaresque" novel, which follows the adventures of a down-and-out protagonist who learns life's lessons and makes good. Donna Shalala, former secretary of health and human services, is among the many that have compared Brown's book to Mark Twain's works: "Molly Bolt is a genuine descendant – genuine female descendant – of Huckleberry Finn. And Rita Mae Brown is, like Mark Twain, a serious writer who gets her messages across through laughter." *Rubyfruit Jungle* was unique in being the first such novel that both had a female subject and was written by a woman. Today, the novel is a staple of both gay and lesbian studies and literature classes.

Brown's book was among the earliest works to reflect the sensibilities of the burgeoning lesbian-feminist community of the early 1970s. It also broke ground as one of the first novels to feature a happy, unapologetic lesbian protagonist – unlike the tradition of lesbian novels, such as Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness*, in which the lesbian was typically



Past Out

portrayed as a tragic figure who often died by the end of the book, or at least lost her girl to a man.

After every major New York publishing house rejected *Rubyfruit Jungle*, it was finally published by Daughters, a small independent women's press co-founded by June Arnold, another pioneering lesbian writer. Even without reviews in mainstream newspapers and magazines or the publicity afforded by a large publisher, the novel proved highly popular; its success brought attention to feminist presses and helped inspire an outpouring of new lesbian literature. In 1977, Bantam Books purchased rights to the novel, and it has remained in print ever since.

Rubyfruit Jungle afforded Brown considerable acclaim, allowing her to make a living as a writer. *Rubyfruit Jungle* brought me notoriety, a ton of hate mail, numerous threats on my life including two bomb threats, increased outrage from the conservative wing of the feminist movement, and scorn from the radical dykes," she wrote in her 1997 autobiography. "Straight people were mad because I was gay. The dykes were mad because I wasn't gay enough."

As the lesbian-feminist movement began to fall apart due to internal conflicts in the late 1970s, Brown moved to Los Angeles, where she worked as a screenwriter for film and television (her credits include *The Slumber Party Massacre* and the lesbian-themed TV movie *My Two Loves*). Her celebrity grew when she began a three-year relationship with tennis star Martina Navratilova in 1979. Navratilova went on to a long-term relationship with Judy Nelson, who filed a palimony suit when they split up; Brown then had an affair with Nelson. Among Brown's other relationships was one with actress and author Fannie Flagg.

Brown – an avid animal lover – remained a prolific writer, and in the 1990s "co-authored" a series of mystery novels with her cat Sneaky Pie. But none of her subsequent works achieved the popularity of *Rubyfruit Jungle*, which remains one of the best-selling lesbian novels of all time. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached care of this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Brown, Rita Mae. 1997. *Rita Will: Memoir of a Literary Rabble Rouser* (Bantam).
Jay, Karla. 1999. *Tales of the Lavender Menace* (Basic Books).

Big 4-0

◀ page 2

do it again?

"The trouble is, eventually you seroconvert," he said.

But, he counters, "I believe that we pathologize everything. Of course we do deal with drugs. It's pandemic. If you are over 40, it

doesn't mean something is wrong with you. You don't need a support group because you're damaged. It's just a place to meet."

"I definitely understand the landmines out there: crystal meth, alcohol," said Duffy. "I understand what stress out there can cause. I'm empathetic."

"This generation is the first to be out for their entire adult life

span so they are the trailblazers," said Jason Riggs of the Stop AIDS Project which, after finding increasing incidences of risky sex among gay men over 40, started a new campaign entitled "Change: The over 40 gay man's guide to staying HIV-negative." "We are still building up support mechanisms in existing gay culture and institutions." ▼

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Senator Dianne Feinstein
November 4, 2004

the great stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is the white moderate...

"I must make two honest confessions to you, my Christian and Jewish brothers. First, I must confess that over the past few years I have been gravely disappointed with the white moderate. I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate, who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of tension to a positive peace which is the presence of justice; who constantly says: "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I cannot agree with your methods of direct action"; who paternalistically believes he can set the timetable for another man's freedom; who lives by a mythical concept of time and who constantly advises the Negro to wait for a "more convenient season." Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection"

Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
"Letter from Birmingham Jail"

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Tough love

by Jane Warner

I 7th and Dolores, November 8, 8:42 p.m.: A man buying some items at Spirit Papa's Market on 17th and Noe was surprised to see a strange man standing behind him during his transaction at the cash register.

"I love you. I love you," the stranger whispered in his ear. Startled, the man left the small store where he lost sight of the man. As he approached his house near 17th and Dolores, however, the same man ran up behind him brandishing a knife.

"You going to give me your money?" the assailant threatened, pushing the victim to the ground.

"Yes, sir," the victim screamed. Fearing for his life, the man took out his wallet and gave the robber about \$70. The suspect grabbed the money and ran eastbound on 17th Street. Another man witnessed the assault and called 911 on his cell phone. Responding officers found the suspect walking on Dolores Street. A

foot chase ensued as the suspect ran toward Dolores Park. An off-duty police officer stopped at the light at the intersection saw the officers chasing the suspect, jumped from his truck and tackled him to the ground. The other officers caught up and the assailant was taken into custody. The alleged robber, 46, was taken to Mission

Station where he was booked for armed robbery, resisting arrest, possession of stolen property and parole violation.

Highly charged

Noe and Market, November 13, 1:43 p.m.: Police received a call of a suspicious package near Gold's Gym.

When they arrived, they found a device in the bushes near Vibrant Health vitamin store that looked like a cordless phone, several batteries, and other electronic components bound together by black tape. For safety reasons, officers closed off the area with yellow tape and notified explosive specialists. Officers maintained radio silence communicating through landlines from an adjacent business and Gold's Gym and the

small vitamin store, which was voluntarily evacuated. While waiting for the specialist team to arrive, a police officer, assigned to direct pedestrian traffic, was approached by a man who shouted, "What the fuck is going on?" The officer explained the situation. Suddenly the man pushed past the yellow tape, and screamed, "Well do something about it, bitch," punching the officer in the left shoulder and throwing a cup of beer at his uniform.

The officer, unable to call for backup because of radio silence, chased after the suspect. As the culprit looked back, he ran into another person. The collision caused both of them to fall to the sidewalk. The officer caught up to the suspect and after a short struggle, took him into custody.

Shortly thereafter, explosive specialists arrived and determined the device was nothing more than a harmless assortment of electronic equipment taped together.

After taking photos, officers dismantled the suspicious package and reopened the area to the public. The suspect, 42, was taken to Mission Station and booked with three counts of battery and resisting arrest. ▼

Castro Theatre owner refutes charges of homophobia

by Matthew S. Bajko

Responding to suggestions that he wants to do away with gay-themed films, Castro Theatre owner Ted Nasser this week vehemently denied he or his family have any reservations about showing movies aimed at an LGBT audience.

In a telephone interview Nasser refuted any claims that he or his wife have raised concerns about the gay content of the movies shown at the theater or the images used in the promotional materials for the films.

"Any suggestion that I or any other Nasses are very homophobic are untrue. I am very proud of being in the Castro neighborhood," said Nasser in his first extensive comments about the controversy surrounding the theater since questions about its programming arose earlier this fall. "I have never had any reservations of showing gay films. I have every intention to show such films. Any statements to the contrary are untrue."

Questions about the theater's programming first surfaced in October after the theater's then-assistant manager, Christian Bruno, circulated an e-mail suggesting changes were in store. Since then, Bruno and Anita Monga, the theater's longtime programmer, were fired and manager Stacey Wisnia and office manager Kelly Rausch resigned in protest.

Bruno has since said the Nasses raised concerns about several gay-themed films as well as the photos used to promote the movies. In an interview with the Bay Area Reporter earlier this month, he suggested people boycott the movie house. Nasser, who initially did not return phone calls seeking comment, hired Nancy E. Quinn Associates, a fundraising and management firm for small and mid-sized arts organizations,

as his publicist and spoke to the B.A.R. Tuesday, November 9.

Nasser responded to the comments that he is averse to showing gay films as "outrageously false. Over the years we have had numerous window posters showing attractive gays and lesbians. If I was homophobic, why would I run a theater in the middle of the Castro district? It makes no sense."

Several LGBT films are already part of the theater's winter calendar, he noted. In February the theater will show *Head On*, a 1999 entry to the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Film Festival about sexual exploits of a gay Greek national living in Australia, and another film with a lesbian theme.

"These films will always be a part of the Castro Theatre and I am proud of it, with an underline under proud," said Nasser.

As for his wife wanting to become the theater's programmer, Nasser said there is no basis in fact to such a rumor. Instead, to help program the theater, Nasser hired Richard Blacklock of Los Angeles-based Exhibitors Services Inc.

"As for will my wife do the programming? The thought never entered her mind. She never wanted to be a film programmer and neither do I," he said.

While his wife did program a children's classic film festival this fall, Nasser said the idea was never to turn out the Castro's other features.

"How that all started was we looked at the theater on Sundays and at that time it was closed and dark. We have this asset, why not make good use of it and make some money?" said Nasser. "As soon as it ended, we resumed in the afternoon with grown-up movies. It was not to take the place of grown-up movies. No one ever, ever thought to make the theater into a children's theater."

As for Blacklock now being in charge of booking the theater,

Nasser added, "hopefully people won't be able to tell the difference." Over the next several months, the Castro will play host to another former film star and movie event produced by Marc Huestis, the Buddha Festival, the San Francisco Indie Fest, the Gay Men's Chorus Christmas concert, and an Academy Awards gala benefit for cystic fibrosis.

Festivals to continue

Nasser has been meeting with a coalition of local film festivals to hear their concerns and assure them they are still welcome at the Castro, as well as District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty. He is in the process of hiring a new person who would be responsible for working with the festivals as well as a new manager for the theater.

"We want to continue with our festivals," said Nasser. "We welcome the festivals to the theater and we will continue to provide the best movie going experience possible."

Hilary Hart, a spokeswoman for the San Francisco Film Festival and Special Events Coalition, said the group sees no reason to leave the Castro Theatre. She also said the coalition sees no reason for people to boycott the theater, or the festivals that present their films there.

"Our concern about a boycott is we would all feel like collateral damage," said Hart, director of publicity for the San Francisco International Film Festival. "We would suffer a lot. Every single festival would suffer. We wouldn't be there if there was a reason to boycott."

The coalition is comprised of the Film Arts Foundation, presenter of the Film Arts Festival of Independent Cinema; Frameline, presenter of the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival; Goethe-Institut San Francisco, presenter of Berlin & Beyond; Marc Huestis, special

page 23 ▶

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Transgender Day of Remembrance Saturday

by Zak Szymanski

The Internet message boards are abuzz, and flyers are circulating throughout cities and on college campuses: the seventh annual Transgender Day of Remembrance is Saturday, November 20, with events scheduled all week around the world to honor the transgender victims of murder and demand an end to the violence.

This past year saw 21 reported murders of transgender people, a rate of more than one per month. Most of the victims were transgender women of color, and several of the murders were in California over the past few months.

On November 6, a transgender woman was found beaten to death in an alley in Long Beach. On August 28 in Los Angeles, a transgender woman named Bella Martinez, 24, was shot to death. On August 15, a Fresno victim named Joel Robles, 29, reportedly known as a crossdressing male, was stabbed multiple times. And on August 13 in San Francisco, local transgender woman Tony "Delicious" Green was found murdered in a hotel.

The Day of Remembrance, in conjunction with the Remembering Our Dead memorial Web site (www.rememberingourdead.com), was sparked by the murder of Rita Hester, a Boston-area singer popular in the music community who was found stabbed to death in her apartment in 1998. Media coverage of her death not only refused to respect her identity but also painted her as having "a double life" because she lived as a woman.

Founded by East Bay activist (and *Bay Area Reporter* columnist) Gwen Smith, who was tired of seeing the lives and deaths of individuals ignored or exploited, the Day of Remembrance has grown to include 182 events in eight countries, 35 states, and the District of Columbia.

In San Francisco, many different schools, groups, and organizations will observe the Day of Remembrance, but the primary event kicks off with a candlelight vigil on Saturday, assembling at

page 23 ▶



Gwen Smith, center, leads the Transgender Day of Remembrance march in 2003.

Harvey Milk Plaza at 6:30 p.m. and proceeding down Market Street to the LGBT Community Center. An event follows inside the center's Rainbow Room, featuring the family of Delicious Green, as well as the family of Gwen Araujo, the East Bay transgender teenager murdered in 2002.

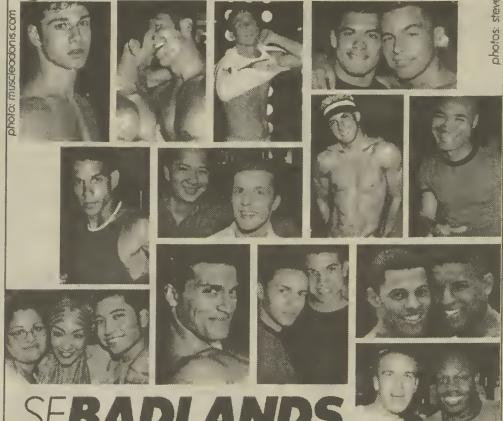
This weekend is also the Youth Gender Project's annual Gender Blast conference (see www.youthgenderproject.org), ensuring increased youth participation in the Day of Remembrance.

For founder Smith, the day is one way to draw awareness to the epidemic of violence against trans people and insist on everyone's right to live in accordance with their identity, from the gender variant to the passing transsexual.

"There is no 'safe' way to be transgendered," wrote Smith on the Remembering Our Dead Web site. "As you look at the many names collected here, note that some of these people may have identified as drag queens, some as heterosexual crossdressers, and some as transsexuals. Some were living very out lives, and some were living fully 'stealth' lives ... in fact, one thing that has come to light in doing this project is how

lighting this project is how

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The Goodridge decision, one year later

by Lisa Keen

When the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court released its opinion in *Goodridge v. Department of Health* on November 18, 2003, the reaction was like a second coming. To some, a whole new world of exciting possibilities opened up; to others, the sky was falling.

The *Goodridge* decision, named after one of seven plaintiff couples, said that the Massachusetts Constitution's guarantee of equality under the law means the state must treat same-sex couples the same as heterosexual couples in the issuance of marriage licenses.

The reaction spread around the globe and launched highly contentious debates in the U.S. Congress, in many state legislatures, and in the race for the U.S. presidency – from the primaries through the post-election analysis.

The decision, penned by Chief Justice Margaret Marshall, in part inspired Mayor Gavin Newsom to

order city officials to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples in San Francisco, and his act inspired elected officials from Portland and Seattle on the West Coast to New Paltz, New York, and Asbury Park, New Jersey, on the East Coast – and a few places in between – to do the same or at least think about doing it.

Within several weeks – and still months before Massachusetts was slated to begin enforcing the court's order by issuing its first official same-sex marriage license – thousands of gay couples had marriage licenses in the United States. Talk shows were abuzz, legislators went searching for a preemptive strike, the Massachusetts governor found an obscure law to justify blocking out-of-state couples from marrying in Massachusetts, and right-wing activists began contracting with professional petition gatherers in 13 states to get antigay marriage initiatives on the ballot.

Now, one year later, thousands of same-sex couples still have their marriage licenses – some have



Congress failed to pass an anti-gay marriage amendment – the Federal Marriage Amendment – in the Senate, but with a stronger Republican majority and the continued support of a re-elected Republican president, the measure is certain to come up again. The House passed a measure to block the courts from testing the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act, a federal statute which, up until *Goodridge*, seemed to stand as a hurdle to gay marriage. That, too, will certainly come up again.

But so will efforts to preserve, defend, and expand the rights of same-sex couples to marry. Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, which brought the *Goodridge* case to the Massachusetts courts, filed a case on behalf of out-of-state couples who wish to marry in Massachusetts. The organization also filed a case similar to *Goodridge* with the Connecticut courts. On December 7, another gay litigation group, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, filed challenges similar to *Goodridge* in New York and New Jersey courts. Lambda will go before an appeals court in New Jersey to argue that case on December 7.

Lambda, which also filed challenges in an effort to have the antigay marriage initiatives taken off the ballots, is now gearing up to challenge the constitutional amendments themselves.

The Human Rights Campaign created a special "marriage campaign" and put one of Washington's best known lobbyists – Hillary Rosen, partner of former HRC Executive Director Elizabeth Bich – in charge of strategy. It has put together an impressive arsenal of information and game plans to organize in support of equal marriage rights from the grassroots up and into the halls of Congress. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which has been notoriously strapped for funds throughout much of its history, rallied to find and contribute more than \$1 million to efforts in the states.

In fact, it would be hard to itemize everything both sides of the same-sex marriage controversy have done and are doing. It is even more difficult to find a reliable number for how many same-sex couples have obtained a marriage license in the United States, solemnized their marriage, and recorded it with local officials. The state registrar said the state does not have a number. The Boston City Clerk's office can say that 491 same-sex couples filed their application for a license, but there is no easy way of tracking how many of those had the marriage solemnized and returned the license for recording. Provincetown counted 836 near the end of September. San Francisco issued 4,039 but believes only 3,955 were actually recorded before the court stopped the city, pending litigation. In the United States, the total that could be confirmed at press time is 8,992.

And here's another important number: 21. That's the number of times the *Goodridge* decision has been cited or discussed in court decisions, briefs, and other legal documents in cases around the country – from the cases in California, Oregon, and Washington state to the unsuccessful adoption case in Florida and beyond.

The *Goodridge* decision, said GLAD civil rights director Mary Bonauto, who led the legal chal-

Ed Balmelli, left, and Michael Horgan, plaintiffs in the *Goodridge* case, register to marry at Boston City Hall on May 17, as attorney Mary Bonauto looks on.

been invalidated, some are still intact, and some are under challenge by court cases. Antigay marriage initiatives passed in 13 states – Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky,

Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Utah. In most states, the margin was 2 to 1 or greater.

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page 23 ►

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Toronto embraces gay community

by Ed Walsh

A friend once described Toronto as an attempt by friendly space aliens to recreate an American city for the comfort of their American captives but without really pulling it off. They came close. But if you look just beneath the surface, the differences are everywhere.

When it comes to the gay and lesbian scene, immaculate streets and subways, and the overall quality of life in Canada's largest city, the differences are good.

Following the recent presidential election, tens of thousands of Americans disappointed with the election results swamped Canada's immigration Web site. Those involved in promoting tourism to Toronto hope that newfound interest from their southern neighbors will translate into tourists who first want to kick the tires before going all the way.

The Castro and 18th streets of Toronto are Church and Wellesley streets. But unlike San Francisco's relatively spread out gay scene, virtually all gay clubs, bars, and bathhouses are centered in the area referred to by locals as Church and Wellesley or simply as "the village."

Like the Castro, the evolution of the village took off in the 1970s. Before that, it was one of the most rundown sections of the city. But Church and Wellesley have a gay history that goes back two centuries. Alexander and Wood streets in the village are named after Alexander Wood, a wealthy 19th century Toronto magistrate whose homosexuality was an open secret. He owned an estate in the village, which at that time was on the outskirts of the city. Plans are in the works to put up a statue of him at the intersection of Church and Alexander next spring.

Fans of Showtime's *Queer Folk* will recognize sections of the

Gay dates

Mr. Leatherman Toronto:
Thanksgiving weekend, November 25-28, 2004.

Pride Toronto: the 25th anniversary Pride Week is June 20-26, 2005.

Folsom Fair North 3: July 16, 2005

For more information

Gay Toronto Tourism
Guild's Guide: www.toronto-pronto.com, a great site for all things gay in Toronto or call 1-866-480-7738.

Toronto Convention and Visitor's Bureau:
www.tourismtoronto.com, click on the Celebrate your Pride section or call 1-800-499-2514.

XTRA, Toronto's biweekly LGBT paper and includes club listings: www.xtra.ca.

Fab, Toronto's biweekly clubbing magazine: www.fab-magazine.com.

For news and up to date gay listings, visit www.gayguideontario.com.

The 519 Community Center: www.the519.org.



Ed Walsh

Toronto's famous CN Tower framed by two high-rise buildings.

village that are used as exteriors for the popular series in an attempt to recreate Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Most of the outside shots of the Babylon club in the TV series are from Fly at 8 Gloucester Street. It's a popular Saturday nightclub. QAF fans may also recognize the Comix shop at 530 Yonge Street. The film industry loves Toronto because it's cheaper to do business there and can easily fill in for most American cities.

Speaking of cheaper, Canada remains a good value for American travelers. The exchange rate means you can take 20 to 25 percent off the Canadian dollar price to get your price in American dollars. Toronto is the financial capital of Canada and ATMs are everywhere, so you'll have no problem getting Canadian cash using your card.

Getting there

Many U.S. airlines offer direct flights from the Bay Area's airports. Canada's largest carrier, Air Canada, operates nonstop flights from San Francisco International Airport, and is partnered with United Airlines, so you can get United frequent flier credit when you fly with that airline.

Getting to the village from Toronto's Pearson International Airport is a breeze. Take the 192 Airport Rocket bus. Just ask anyone where it stops. It will drop you off inside the subway where you can ride all over the city. It takes about an hour to get to the village from the airport. The village's station is Wellesley. You have to have the exact \$2.25 fare when you board the bus. You can pay in U.S. money, but you won't get any exchange rate benefit.

If you don't want to schlepp your luggage on the subway, you can take the Airport Express bus downtown for \$15.50 one way or \$26.75 round trip (Canadian).

Getting around

Two words: public transit. It's great. Toronto's color-coded subway system is easy to figure out, impeccably clean, safe, and graffiti-free. Get a transfer when you get on in case you want to transfer to a bus or streetcar. But unlike Muni, you can use the transfer only once and only in one direction.

You can buy subway tokens in

any station and if you pay with American money, you will get a generous 30 percent exchange rate. They don't offer a weekly pass, but you can save money if you buy five or 10 tokens at a time. A day pass is \$7.75 Canadian.

If you prefer to walk, the village is centrally located and the downtown waterfront is easily walkable.

Getting cold

It's not as cold as you think in the winter. Unlike Canada's second-largest city, Montreal, Toronto is not a virtual frozen tundra in the winter. Its average winter temperature is only about 8 degrees cooler than New York City and it gets about a third less precipitation than the Big Apple in the winter.

Unlike most U.S. cities, Toronto is extremely well equipped to handle the cold weather. An underground shopping center extends 6.5 miles from the downtown waterfront allowing cold-adverse walkers to get around downtown without going outside.

Nightlife

It's all centered in the village. There are clubs here for every variety and taste. There are also more than a half-dozen bathhouses. Popular village bars include Woody's/Sailor, at 465-7 Church Street; Zelda's Restaurant Bar Patio, at 542 Church Street; and Bar 501, at 501 Church Street, famous for its drag queen shows. Bars that are popular with lesbians in the village include Tango, at 508 Church Street; Slack Alice, at 562 Church Street; and Pegasys, at 489B Church Street.

Toronto's only male strip bar is Remington's, at 379 Yonge Street. Incidentally, size matters on Yonge Street. It's listed in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as being the longest street in the world, all 1,178 miles of it.

There's also a growing gay scene about a dozen blocks west of the village in an area called by several names: college west, west village, queen west, or queer west. For information about the various gay venues offered there, visit the Web site www.gaywest.905host.net.

Accommodations

The village is home to a number of hotels and bed and breakfasts. The most popular is the Hotel Indigo, located at 100 Yonge Street. It's a

next page ►

Toronto

◀ previous page

ber of gay and gay-welcoming guesthouses and hotels.

A great choice for gay and lesbian travelers who appreciate architecture is one of the three beautifully restored mansions owned by Ric Tremaine, the president of the Gay Toronto Tourism Guild. His original house, Cawthra Square, bills itself as being "straight-friendly." Its sister properties, the gay-welcoming Gloucester House Inns, are designated as Canadian Heritage Victorians. Other popular guesthouses include the Dundonald House, with amenities that include touring bikes, a hot tub, sauna and workout room.

The Bearfoot Inn, says it all in its slogan, "Where the bears are."

The charming Victoria's Mansion and the Banting House Inn are also among the more popular gay-welcoming B&Bs.

The sights

A good way to start is with a visit to the tallest building in the world, and Toronto's signature landmark, the CN Tower. It offers a breathtaking view of the city. If you want to splurge, have dinner in its revolving restaurant. For a cheap thrill, walk across the glass floor on part of its viewing deck. You can feel like an ironworker without the risk.

A number of tours will take you by land and lake around the city. Many of the sightseeing buses are based in the downtown area, off Front Street, near the CN Tower. A tour bus route that will let you get on and off at popular destinations is a good way to go. You can stop off at several of

Getting hitched in Toronto

by Ed Walsh

Reflective of the city's deserved gay-welcoming reputation, Toronto City Hall will be remembered in gay history as being ground zero for gay marriage when its province, Ontario, legalized same-sex marriage in June 2003. Those involved in gay tourism say the decision helped to partially offset the huge decline in business during the SARS scare that summer.

Toronto's manager of legislative services, Brett Stein, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that about 1,900 same-sex couples have obtained marriage licenses at Toronto City Hall since the landmark court ruling, and about a third of those were from the United States. But gay marriage isn't just for Ontario any more; earlier this month, Saskatchewan became the seventh jurisdiction in Canada to okay gay marriage.

Gay marriage was made legal in Massachusetts in May 2004 but an arcane 1913 law prohibits granting licenses to out-of-state

couples. The organization that brought the lawsuit that resulted in gay marriage rights in Massachusetts, Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders, has suggested that same-sex couples from out of state would be better off getting married in Canada than Massachusetts. That's because, GLAD said, couples married in Massachusetts would first have to prove that their license was valid before getting the argument over whether they should be granted a particular right that is afforded to heterosexual married couples.

Kate Kendell, the executive director for the San Francisco-based National Center for Lesbian Rights, cautioned that gay couples who get married in Massachusetts or Canada should not expect to get any of the rights afforded to heterosexual married couples. She opined that the legal struggle for rights would be equally as great whether couples get married in Canada or Massachusetts.

Last month, a comptroller for the state of New York decided that gay couples who marry in Canada would be considered married in

the eyes of the state's retirement system. Whether other local jurisdictions will follow New York's lead remains to be seen. The federal Defense of Marriage Act has prevented gay couples who marry in Canada or Massachusetts from being treated equally in matters under federal control. Kendell cautioned that the New York case is the only favorable decision that she's heard of so far involving gay Americans who marry in Canada.

If you have already married in San Francisco earlier this year, can you still get married in Canada? Yes, according to Kendell because the California Supreme Court treated those marriages like an annulment, as if they had never occurred. But Alex Finlayson, a Toronto attorney who specializes in advising gay and lesbian couples, was a little more cautious. Finlayson told the *B.A.R.* that although he has never heard of that issue being brought up, couples married in San Francisco would probably need to submit an opinion prepared by a lawyer stating that the court set their San Francisco marriage aside.

Immigration

Michael Battista, a Toronto-based immigration attorney who specializes in helping gay couples immigrate to Canada, told the *B.A.R.* that since the presidential election, he's heard from a number of gay American couples who became interested in relocating to Canada as a result of the election outcome. Battista said that the process is relatively easy for Americans who have a college education. He also noted that he's heard from many gay Americans who have partners from another country and want to move to Canada as a way to stay together with both partners having equal citizenship rights. Officials at Canada's official immigration Web site said that the day after the election, hits to the site jumped from about 20,000 a day to 115,016.

GLAD and Toronto's gay business guild offer step by step guides on how to marry in Canada: www.GLAD.org or www.toronto-pronto.com. Canada's immigration site is www.cic.gc.ca/English. ▼

Toronto's museums and the city's very own castle: Casa Loma. With a CityPass for \$46 (Canadian), you will get in the door at six attractions, including the CN Tower and Casa Loma.

Toronto boasts the third largest English-speaking theater scene in the world, after New York and London. The area around the downtown shopping mall, Eaton Centre, is in the process of trans-

forming itself into the Times Square of Canada, bright lights and all. By the way, Toronto is a shopper's paradise. The aforementioned Eaton Centre plus miles of underground shopping, not to mention the specialty shops in Toronto, will give your credit card a workout.

Be sure to visit the Toronto Islands, especially during warm weather. The islands are just off

shore, and you have to take a ferry there. Torontonians wisely chose not to build a bridge from the mainland to keep the islands' rural feel.

The islands are connected and easily walkable. Hanlan's Point Beach, at the west end of Centre Island, features a nude section, and in keeping with the nude beach tradition, the far end is gay.

Besides the wide array of gay bars and restaurants, the village is

home to a touching memorial to AIDS victims. It's in Cawthra Square, just off Church Street near the intersection of Church and Wellesley.

The Church and Wellesley community center borders Cawthra Park, on 519 Church Street. "The 519," as it's known, is an all-purpose neighborhood center and Toronto's de facto LGBT center. ▼

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McGreevey steps down

by Bob Roehr

The final curtain came down on James E. McGreevey's (D) tenure as governor of New Jersey Monday, November 15, as he had promised. McGreevey had stunned the nation by announcing at an August 12 news conference, "I am a gay American." His second wife and his parents were by his side.

Richard Cody (D), president of the state Senate, was sworn in as acting governor late Sunday night and will finish out McGreevey's term. McGreevey's future plans are uncertain.

McGreevey's dramatic coming out on national television was an attempt to draw attention away from the fact that McGreevey had put his male paramour, Golan Cipel, on the state payroll at a top salary, in a position for which he was not qualified. Cipel later fled the media circus to his native Israel.

A series of he said accusations of sexual harassment and blackmail, tossed out by the Cipel and McGreevey camps, fed tabloid coverage over the ensuing weeks. Cipel denied that he was gay and claimed to have resisted McGreevey's sexual advances over the years.

Federal investigators found no evidence to substantiate the charge that McGreevey had been blackmailed.

McGreevey's delayed resignation was another source of controversy as it prevented a special



Former Gov. James McGreevey

election to fill out the remaining 14 months of his term. And his administration was plagued by charges of corruption.

The Newark Star-Ledger, the state's leading newspaper, published an exposé of McGreevey's seamy side on November 7 under the headline "The Governor's Secret Life."

It detailed how McGreevey had developed a fondness for go-go bars and strip joints early in his political career, perhaps as a form of overcompensation for internal questions about his sexual orientation.

The barhopping became so commonplace that his staff developed a euphemism for it: "McGreevey is out knocking on doors in Sayreville," the location of his most frequent haunts.

Rumors that McGreevey was

gay began circulating as early as 1989 when he was running for the state assembly. They were fueled by his divorce in 1995 and by surrounding himself with a staff composed largely of attractive young males, who some took to calling "the lavender hill mob."

He was spotted at Studio Six, "Atlantic City's hottest gay nightspot" on at least two different Saturday nights during the 2001 campaign for governor. He always headed upstairs to the quiet VIP room.

McGreevey met Cipel while on a trade mission to Israel in March 2000, three weeks after proposing to his second wife Dina Matos. Cipel soon moved to New Jersey and became involved in the campaign for governor and later in senior positions within McGreevey's administration.

Cipel was frequently observed in the private quarters of the governor's mansion. After one early morning encounter an unnamed former administration official told the *Star-Ledger*, "It was very obvious he had spent the night. You don't go to the governor's mansion with a sweat suit on. His hair was not combed. His face did not look like he washed it."

But it appears that their affair turned sour and Cipel left the administration. McGreevey financially took care of his ex by arranging jobs with political supporters, but Cipel's demands kept escalating until McGreevey and his allies could no longer buy his silence. That is when the governor called his news conference. ▼

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AIDS czar

◀ page 1

fits counseling, outpatient mental health, and practical support services targeting low-income and/or homeless persons with HIV/AIDS. The spending approvals raised some eyebrows, with one speaker, a client of Shanti's, asking why Shanti was being singled out and other agencies were not.

"Why not AHP or the AIDS foundation who have done nothing for me? Shanti is reaching people with nowhere to go," said James Rouska.

Dana Van Gorder, the AIDS foundation's director of state and local affairs, said while he did not know the rationale behind the department's cuts, they are consistent with the prioritization that had already been approved by the HIV Health Services Planning Council and the mayor's instructions not to eliminate mental health and substance abuse services.

"AHP is providing mental health services through groups to HIV-positive people and those services, as well as benefits counseling and client advocacy and housing services are ranked more highly than practical and emotional support services, which Shanti provides," said Van Gorder.

SFAP administers the contract for the three agencies, and Van Gorder expects the foundation's and AHP's portion of the funding will be targeted in the department's next round of cuts.

"It has been proposed for cuts in the last two budget years and it is certainly possible that if Mitch [Katz, the city's health director] has to propose deeper cuts, which I assume he will, those services will be looked at again," said Van Gorder, who used to work at the health department. "That will undoubtedly occur in the context of what we expect to be additional Ryan White CARE cuts for next year. DPH is going to have to look at the entire CARE funded portfolio and general fund services and decide what they believe they can continue to fund."

Since the Health Commission passed its mid-year budget cuts proposal last week, Sheehy has been in talks with the mayor's office, health officials, and Supervisor Bevan Dufty to discuss how the department determined which programs to cut and how it can devise a better system in the future. A meeting will be convened Friday, November 19 which will include health officials, the supervisor, Sheehy, and the co-chairs of the city's two HIV planning councils to discuss whether the city should shift some of the \$3 million it sets aside for HIV prevention to HIV services.

"What is missing in this whole discussion is what is happening to the health department's public health primary care capacity, which is the highest priority for the CARE council and the most important need for people with HIV," said Sheehy. "If that whole system is being shrunk it adversely affects someone with HIV. Whatever cuts are made need to be understood in the context of primary care capacity of the public health department."

Specifically, Sheehy said he is eyeing the city's \$3 million allocation toward HIV prevention when San Francisco already receives \$7 million from federal and state funding for such programs.

"I do think \$3 million in annual funding for HIV prevention from the general fund needs to be justified. There is CDC money, state money, three clinical trials planned, all of which will have behavioral components, so that serves a certain prevention need," he said. "There is a strong possibility money can be found to maintain some of these services. We need a mature, non-politicized discussion to look at what people need and what works, instead of who has the ear of a particular supervisor. The way these cuts are taking place seems very haphazard and very scattered."

Jimmy Loyce, director of the AIDS Office, countered the programs that were cut were those on the table during the city's budgeting process last spring and which the supervisor's were able to backfill during their budget negotiations this summer.

"Those cuts gave us well over \$1 million in return to the general fund so we did not need to do prevention in this round given those cuts," said Loyce, referring to the amount saved solely in this fiscal year. "In the next fiscal year, the projected deficit is \$130 million for the city and county and we are proposing cutting prevention \$1 million in general funds. If the deficit which is projected by the mayor and his staff holds or increases, the likelihood is fairly good it will happen."

Steven Tierney, the director of HIV prevention, defended his department's budget, saying it has been reduced in past years.

"It is not true to say that prevention never gets a cut. The reality is we have been flat funded by the CDC for the last three years, so essentially in today's economy, it is a cut of a different type," he said.

Also, Tierney noted that most of the money for his section is mandated by the federal government to go toward prevention programs.

"The service cuts being made come from HRSA through the Ryan White CARE Act funds. The funds approved from the CDC

come for prevention. It is not like if we cut social marketing we can pay for someone's rent," said Tierney. "It makes for good conversation but it is not legal for us to do it."

As his section's spending is scrutinized, Tierney said prevention is a piece of the city's health care services.

"Both things go hand in hand," he said. "I am not worried about budget sharks. I am worried the city won't have all the money for what we want to do. I will be a voice at the table to do both prevention and health promotion as well as medical care for those who are sick."

Friday meeting

At the meeting Friday, officials will discuss whether they should ask the CDC for permission to shift prevention dollars to pay for health services. Loyce said the AIDS Office would not identify any specific dollar amounts or a list of services it has in mind to fund, but will simply "float the idea." He said it is the first time in his 30 years working in the city that such a request was being considered.

"We have never been in this devastating financial position before. No one expected this mid-year cut," said Loyce. "At this point we don't see, I don't see a negative from asking the CDC to allow us to make local decisions of how we expend prevention dollars as it relates to prevention for positive services."

Also, health officials and AIDS service providers are bracing for another round of Ryan White CARE cuts in March 2005. This March the city lost \$4 million in CARE funding. Due to language in the CARE Act, San Francisco will automatically start off with \$700,000 less in its award next year.

"I can't tell you what the thinking in Washington is right now or what our award will be," said Loyce. "We think we sent in a strong application this year. Who knows what evil lurks in the heart of Washingtonians?"

As for the immediate hits to AIDS services in the mid-year cuts, it is still possible the mayor and supervisors will find additional cuts elsewhere in the budget to restore funding to the health department. The city has until January 15 to finalize the budget cuts. Those agencies slated to receive cuts received faxed notifications last Friday, November 12 and were mailed letters this week.

"The mayor may decide there are certain things on this list he doesn't want to cut," said Loyce. "We do not want to make these cuts. We have no discretion over it because we don't have the money in the general fund to deliver these services in the way that we have been able to do." ▼

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Hotel lockout

◀ page 1

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In addition to thousands of workers — gay and straight — being out of work during the labor standoff, the lockout has affected LGBT organizations in other ways. Several, including the Horizons Foundation, Folsom Street Events, and the American Foundation for AIDS Research, have moved events to other venues so that guests would not have to cross picket lines. The recent gay travel expo went ahead with its event at the Hyatt, one of the locked out hotels, but organizers waived the \$5 admission fee and urged patrons to donate it to the workers.

Contract length is an issue. The union wants the new contract to expire in two years to coincide with other hotel workers nationally, giving it more bargaining power.

"Basically the hotels have their bargaining power," said Hague, formerly a waiter at Bix and Zuni Café. "This gives us some bargaining power also."

But, he added, "The press is hung up on the two-year contract. The multi-employer group uses it as a big media ploy. But in meetings it's not discussed."

"The term thing is a smoke-screen," said Patterson, who's also on the negotiating committee. "We're on the street because of health care. They like to put that spin on it but that's not what it's all about."

The way Chip Conley, owner of the 17-unit Joie de Vivre boutique hotel chain sees it, both sides seek out-of-town influence. Five of Conley's hotels have unionized staffs, though he is not involved with the negotiations.

"This whole issue of the two-year thing, why should San Francisco have to strike because people in Atlanta are, when wages here are 30 percent higher than in Atlanta?" said Conley. "If the union would back off on that, the whole strike would be over."

According to a spokeswoman for the hotel group, management is concerned about the future if there is a two-year contract.

"We have been hearing from convention planners that they are very concerned with San Francisco being linked, that in light of the current situation it does not bode well for what might happen in two years — what the labor situation would be if the contract expired in two years," said Barbara French, CEO of Reputation, the hotels' public relations firm.

As an HIV-positive man, Hague would tap city health care services for medication in case of illness should his health coverage lapse.

Patterson said people who are HIV-positive or who have ongoing HIV complications are lucky if they can get on their partner's insurance plan — if they have partners.

"They are trying to eviscerate health care," said Patterson. "They were able to do that because we were all by ourselves. It would be wonderful if they couldn't target us alone. Our union has said from day one that it's a national crisis. It's not something that can be dealt with locally."

W is serving convention goers who refuse to cross a picket line at other hotels, according to Hague.

"I would stay at Beck's or Motel 6 rather than cross the line," he said.

Hague claims improperly trained temporary staff at the locked out hotels have led to crime and maintenance problems whereas the Local 2 members re-

ceive federally mandated safety training and background checks. Hague has also been disappointed in the corporate higher-ups' lack of participation in the negotiating committee meetings attended by about 100 workers and human resources managers.

"Local managers do attend but they don't have the authority to make the final decisions," said Patterson.

Some feel the lockout has affected tourists' perception of the city at a time when revenue is needed more than ever in the wake of budget cuts and two tax proposals that were rejected by voters earlier this month.

"I think in a small way it affects people's willingness to come," said Conley on Bay Area shoppers coming to the city. "I think it's the responsibility of the union to make sure to get the message out. The body that markets tourism should not have to get involved in politics. That's my opinion."

Others encouraged the community to show its support by joining the picket lines.

"If we want support for our struggles, there needs to be reciprocity, mutual support," said Howard Wallace, Pride at Work board member and vice president of the San Francisco Labor Council. "The UFCW in the Central Valley supported our rights. The AFL-CIO passed several resolutions against discrimination against gay people back in the 1980s. We wouldn't have defeated the Briggs initiative without labor unions. They supported the teachers when polls showed us losing and the Chamber of Commerce took no position."

The LGBT community's chamber, the Golden Gate Business Association, has taken no stand on the hotel dispute, according to Jerry Beccera. ▶

Tessie

◀ page 1

have this dinner every month and she would give them a gift bag, to help their benefits checks last a little bit longer," he said.

Those gift bags remain a significant part of the holiday dinners, and Tenderloin Tessie's welcomes donations of toiletries, socks, and gloves for this year's party favors.

It has been a long and sometimes bumpy ride. In the 1990s, the original board that set out to continue Tessie's work was burned out, said Nelson, and the dinners were "on the verge of collapse." But a new board was formed, nonprofit status was achieved, and the mission became a bit broader, with Nelson changing the slogan to reflect economic realities from "feeding the homeless" to "feeding the hungry."

These days, the dinners are running strong thanks in large part, said Nelson, to continued support from the community. The Unitarian Church has consistently offered its space for the dinners. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence send different teams of Sisters to help with set-up, serving, and cleanup. The Reverend Don Fox of San Francisco Night Ministry blesses every dinner. Assembled by Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) comes every year, "never to campaign, just to help," said Nelson, adding that Leno brought District Attorney Kamala Harris last year, and "I put them to work serving coffee."

Despite the celebrity involvement, said Nelson, egos and titles are left at home, as "the only stars at the dinner are the people standing in line."

Tenderloin Tessie's volunteer



A portrait of Tenderloin Tessie

shifts are Wednesday, November 24 from 4 to 7 p.m.; and Thursday, November 25 from 8 to 11 a.m., 12:30 to 4 p.m., and 4 to 7 p.m. Call (415) 922-0422 or (415) 255-7503 to sign up or to donate.

Other dinners

Project Open Hand continues its own tradition of offering Thanksgiving dinner, meeting an increased need this year, with deliveries to about 1,400 seniors at community sites around San Francisco on Wednesday, November 24, and dinner served to about 3,400 homebound and critically ill people on Thursday, November 25.

The organization operates a regular food and grocery program to deliver 11,000 meals each week in San Francisco and Alameda counties. Cash donations are welcome and appreciated; \$35 provides meals for clients for seven days while \$140 provides for one full month. Checks can be mailed to Project Open Hand, 730 Polk Street, San Francisco, CA 94109 or donations can be made by credit

card by calling (415) 447-2419.

Thanksgiving dinner consists of turkey and gravy, cranberry sauce, stuffing, potatoes, pear, carrots, and pumpkin pie. A meatless menu accommodates vegetarians.

Project Open Hand's Thanksgiving Day schedule is meal preparation from 9 to 11:30 a.m.; packaging and assembly from noon until 1:30 p.m.; and deliveries beginning at 3 p.m. There are still a few open slots for delivery volunteers in San Francisco; call (415) 447-2300. Project Open Hand's East Bay location is also looking for volunteers; call (510) 596-8200.

Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco is holding its annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, on 19th Street between Collingwood and Diamond, from 1 to 3 p.m. on November 25. Volunteers are needed for both Wednesday and Thursday; for available slots call Mark Peterson at (415) 364-1821 or e-mail heartsource@webtv.net.

Glide Memorial United Methodist Church serves over 5,000 Thanksgiving dinners each year to the poor and homeless of San Francisco. This year, church organizers are asking donations of turkeys and money.

"Glide's needs are far reaching. We respond to people who are in great need," the Reverend Cecil Williams told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We need turkeys. That's very important. And we need money."

While volunteer shifts appear to be filled for this holiday, volunteers are welcome throughout the year, said Williams.

Thanksgiving meal service is at 330 Ellis Street on November 25 from 7 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. To donate, call (415) 674-6040. ▶

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Rip girls: Women surfers' new wave

by Jim Provenzano

Most Americans are heading into winter, pulling out parkas and gloves. But some California lesbian surfers are in wetsuits year round. Try not to be jealous.

The traditionally male-dominated sport has long been known as a turf war for locals at

any beach, but a California women's surf club is changing that.

"It's scary to go out by yourself," said San Franciscan Anne Moellering, who took up surfing seriously in 2001. "Lineups [queues of surfers awaiting a rideable wave] have typically been 80 to 90 percent guys, and they're not very receptive to women going out."

After asking around, but finding no women's surf organization, she met with friends, started a Yahoo group, and organized social events. Now her group boasts almost 500 members.

Inspired by the Women's Surf

Festival, which had not been staged in a few years, Moellering and others organized the NorCal Women's Surf Club, which led to an annual tournament. The NorCal Women's Surf Fest – held in the small town of Pacifica, south of San Francisco – includes competitions for women in every age and skill category, from kids to seniors. There's even a festive drag event for men, whose competitors this year included the town mayor.

Surfing has its roots in Polynesia (the Sandwich Islands), where it was originally enjoyed by native men and women alike, until Christian missionaries banned it. Its rebirth in Hawaii and then in the United States gradually saw women seriously surfing as far back as 1905.

The book *Girl in the Curl: A Century of Women's Surfing* attests to their presence in the sport. The recent film *Blue Crush* didn't win over audiences for its plot, but it gave a burst of visibility to women surfers by using real footage of them. That's a big plus when compared with the recent surf documentary *Riding Giants*, which included few women surfers.

"The media and movies portray new surfers as teens, which they are," said Moellering. "But a tremendous amount of [adult] women are getting into it. There are a lot more beginners in the water." Most of the women in Moellering's group are in their 30s and are taking up surfing as adults or returning to it again.

Media portrayals of surfers reflect the changing face of the sport, said Moellering. "Big brand companies have borrowed the surfing vibe," using women in their ads. "What's different is she's no longer a beach bunny; she's a real surfer, tearing it up."

But competitive events sometimes devalue women, particularly in prize money and event promotion. Compared to the 50 major global professional tour stops for male surfers, fewer than a dozen events are for women, and they have much smaller budgets. This has forced some female pros to drop out of competitions when prizes don't pay off.

"It simply takes a little longer for marketers to believe the truth," added Moellering. "Women's sports are growing, and they're legitimate vehicles for marketing."

Moellering's club self-produced surfing trips to Costa Rica (the next is January 8-14, 2005), San Onofre, and San Diego, uncovering new beaches to enjoy. Beach clean-ups, teaching workshops, and social events round out the group's schedule.

Maryanne Rardin, a four-year surfer who has boogiedboarded since her teen years, said, "I don't know what took me so long to



Jim Provenzano

From left, surfers Judith Cohen, Maryanne Rardin, and Anne Moellering at this year's NorCal Women's Surf Fest.

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stand up on the water," before her friend Judith Cohen convinced her to try it.

Cohen started surfing at 16 in her native Florida, and has been aquatically inclined ever since.

Twenty years ago, Cohen said,

"women surfers were not pushing

each other to be as radical, to position

themselves in the most critical sections of

a wave. Now, the lid's off."

2001 was a true starting point for women surfers finding their Bay Area tribe. Rardin gives credit to improved marketing and to recent lines of women's wetsuits ("that actually fit") as encouraging women – including lesbians.

Beyond issues of gender, plain old etiquette ranks high for surfers like Cohen. "If you go to breaks you're not familiar with, you have to know how to wait for a wave." Overcrowding on some beaches makes this a crucial issue, Cohen said, along with water safety knowledge, lifesaving training, and good coaching.

"Some schools are teaching good surf-ethics skills," noted Cohen, but others take money simply to teach students to stand up. Cohen, who coaches adults and kids, even hopes for regular-

ed surf instruction schools, like those that swim clubs and other sports groups have. With rising water-pollution counts affecting surfers' health, environmental issues are also important.

Although hundreds of women surfers are making the ranks more even, few have ridden waves like those at Mavericks in Half Moon Bay, California, where 25-foot waves daunt the most accomplished surfers.

For women's surfing to get the same attention as men's, Moellering said it might take an accomplished champion, in the way that Brandy Chastain reminded America of the thousands of women soccer players.

"Women are really evening it out now," said Cohen. "The introduction of estrogen in such amazing numbers has really changed the field out there."

With active members in Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Bodega, Bolinas, and other cities, almost 100 core surfers "and a few token boys," added Cohen, the NorCal Women's Surf Club no longer has to wait in the lineup. They are the lineup. ▼

Sports Complex

Jim Provenzano is the author of the novels *PINS* and *Monkey Suits*. Read more sports columns at www.sportscomplex.org.

Upcoming events

Distance running

Bay Area Distance Runners keep going, and going, and going. The most recent event that members competed in was the Nike 26.2. Upcoming races include the Cal International, and weekly practices in San Francisco. To join and find out the schedule for upcoming runs, visit www.sfbadr.com

Taekwon do

Triangle Martial Arts Association and the LGBT Community Center of San Francisco will host a community self-defense seminar on Tuesday December 2 at the center, 1800 Market Street, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

As part of a joint effort by TMAA and the center to empower the community, to raise awareness regarding personal safety, and to provide practical measures for avoiding or getting out of trouble, this seminar is commonly known as the "EZ-Defense with Pride Self-Defense Seminar" and is suited to novices as well as those more experienced. The seminar is low impact, fun, and highly informative.

Organizers recommend a sliding scale donation up to \$25 per person for the two and a half hour seminar, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Space is limited so pre-registering is highly recommended. Call (415) 495-1888 and leave your name and number of attendees, or e-mail info@trianglemaa.org. For more information, visit www.TriangleMAA.org. ▼

Castro Theatre

◀ page 12

events producer; International Buddhist Film Festival; Latino Film Festival; Mill Valley Film Festival; National Asia American Telecommunications Association, presenter of the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival; San Francisco Cinematheque; San Francisco Film Society, presenter of the San Francisco International Film Festival; San Francisco Jewish Film Festival; San Francisco Silent Film Festival; and Third I, presenter of the South Asian Film Festival.

So far Hart said the Nassers have been "very responsive" in listening to the festival's concerns and promised to address their needs.

"There is a cautiously opti-

mistic feeling. We will be watching the situation very carefully," she said. "Our commitment is to making it work or doing whatever we can to make it work. If it can't work then we will look for other venues."

She added that despite the staff turnover the past month, the festivals that have used the Castro in recent weeks have been pleased.

"The Latino Film Festival had their event 10 days ago at the Castro. I heard everything was very smooth," said Hart, whose festival will take place in April. "We want to make sure there is an experienced staff on board. That is one of our main concerns."

The festivals also do not want to see too many changes to the Castro's programming, said Hart, since its mix of independent, second-run, and revival films helps foster an audience for the festivals.

"We understand the programming of the Castro is not our job and we don't do that but it creates an atmosphere in the Castro that is very complementary to our audiences," she said. "If they were showing a change in programming, say nothing but sports films all the time, then the connection between our audience and the regular Castro audience would be very tenuous."

Nasser said there should be no drastic changes in the theater's programming.

"We are just pushing ahead to keep the status quo in terms of programming and in terms of diversity. We want to continue those second run and revival films," said Nasser. "The Castro is not in any turmoil. We have experienced staff running it nicely and smoothly." ▼

Transgender

◀ page 13

much more is yet to be done."

But exactly what is accomplished by community visibility rooted in tragedy remains up for debate.

It can be problematic, say some individuals, that one of the most widely known views of transgenders is as murder victims. The day also seems to have become a cop-out for so-called allies who refuse to fight for the rights of the living, but who can non-controversially take a stand against murder, in effect honoring trans people only when they are dead.

"It's easy to say that you don't think 'those people' should be murdered – but a whole other leap to say that you think 'those people' belong at your jobs, in your public bathrooms, at your schools, in your families, around your children, at your place of worship, receiving responsible medical care, receiving decent

treatment by police, not being turned away by homeless shelters," said Daniel, a local female-to-male transsexual who asked that his last name not be used. "These leaps are the ones that will, ultimately, have an impact on lessening violence. Once 'those people' are viewed as people, as our people, as 'us,' then fewer people will grow up thinking that violence and murder against people whose genders don't conform to their expectations is acceptable."

There is also the notion that the transgender community needs to re-examine itself before expecting its members to stand up for one another. Some take issue with the trend that white, middle-class, often FTM and genderqueer community members are emerging as the leading voices on issues that primarily affect lower-income MTF women of color. Others say that transgender politics – from who gets to claim identity labels to the hierarchies inherent in "passing" – obstruct community unity

and contribute to the vulnerability of individuals.

"What I see as our most important work is how we relate to each other interpersonally," said San Francisco MTF activist Shawna Viringo. "We need to make room for people who fall all along the gender spectrum or outside the binary, get over our own internalized sexism, and examine ways in which we may uphold male supremacy. We need to come together as a community and quit infighting over things that don't matter."

There is room to incorporate all of these ideas into one visibility event. Specific programming varies by region, but Smith agrees that the day she founded should have room to both celebrate and protect trans people who are alive.

"So many of those killed might have had a better chance if they had things like employment protections, or didn't have problems at school, and so forth," said Smith. "The issues really cannot be separated." ▼

Goodridge

◀ page 14

leng, "has been cited in a variety of contexts, most notably by trial judges in some of the other right to marry cases around the country."

"The trial judges in the Oregon and Washington cases ruled that the state may not deny marriage rights. They may well have arrived at the same conclusion absent *Goodridge*," said Bonauto, "but it always helps to have a persuasive, well-reasoned appellate precedent to cite."

The legal challenges

One such case is *Largent v. Supreme Judicial Court for the State of Massachusetts*, now sitting on the docket of the U.S. Supreme Court, awaiting a vote by the justices on whether they will review it.

There have been notable legal challenges in other states, too. While Newsom issued a directive for the city to start issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples in February, the California Supreme Court put a stop to that directive one month later and in August invalidated all 3,955 same-sex marriages that had been licensed. The city is now preparing for a lower court case on same-sex marriage.

Political challenges

Meanwhile, in the political arena, as the Republican Party tried to leverage some benefit from President Bush's stated opposition to same-sex marriage, post-election numbers and polls suggest the issue was not as big an concern as early commentators suggested.

The post-election poll, conducted by three progressive reli-

gious groups and reported by the *Washington Post*, found that the most important moral issue for 33 percent of voters was "greed and materialism," followed by "poverty and economic justice," cited by 31 percent. Only 12 percent of voters said same-sex marriage was their top moral concern. As for what issue most influenced voters, 42 percent said the war in Iraq was the "moral issue" that most influenced their choice of candidates, 13 percent said abortion, and 9 percent same-sex marriage.

When the poll asked voters to identify the greatest threat to marriage, 31 percent chose "infidelity," 25 percent said "rising financial burdens," and 22 percent said same-sex marriage.

More personal implications

However far the antigay activists reach in undoing the *Goodridge* decision, it has been enormously powerful already in its first year out.

In Massachusetts, it made the spouses of gay employees eligible for health insurance coverage under the employees' health plans, where previously most gay employees could not cover their same-sex partners under such plans. State law also requires that such spouses be able to continue their health coverage for almost 10 months after a spouse has died or been laid off. It allows same-sex spouses to bring wrongful death suits and receive wages owed to a deceased spouse. Massachusetts also has a "Small Necessities Leave Act" which allows employees to take up to 24 hours of leave each year for school activities and medical appointments for certain relatives, includ-

ing those related by marriage.

But there's been a downside, too. Some employers in Massachusetts have chosen to end their health benefits coverage for employees who have same-sex partners but choose not to marry. Also, because the federal government refuses to recognize same-sex marriages, these Massachusetts employees with same-sex spouses cannot, like their heterosexual counterparts, be eligible for the benefits of the Family Leave Medical Act, which enables spouses to take unpaid time off to care for a spouse who is seriously ill, and they cannot deduct the cost of their health insurance premiums as a pre-tax deduction. In fact, same-sex couples will have to pay taxes on the value of the health insurance benefit.

Still, the general public is becoming increasingly aware of the implications of not having legal recognition of relationships for same-sex couples. While only 25 percent of voters surveyed by the exit polls November 2 said they favored marriage rights for same-sex couples, another 35 percent said they would favor legal benefits for gay couples through civil unions.

"We know that 60 percent of voters nationally understand that same-sex couples are wrongly denied rights because they cannot marry," said GLAD's Bonauto. "To the extent that some people are tempted to see civil unions as a substitute for marriage, it is important to remember that they can be a step forward, but are not a substitute for the tangible and intangible rights provided by marriage, by both states, the federal government and the larger culture." ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Solicitation No. 04-620-IFB-036

The San Francisco Housing Authority will receive sealed bids for the INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY GENERATOR at CAL 1-36, 227 BAY STREET located in San Francisco. The Estimated Construction Cost range is \$350,000 to \$400,000. Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, are on file at the San Francisco Housing Authority's office located at 1815 Egbert Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, and will be available for inspection or issuance on or after November 8, 2004. A processing fee of \$50.00 (non-refundable) will be required for each set of documents. All payments must be in the form of CERTIFIED CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK, or COMPANY CHECK payable to the SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING AUTHORITY. CASH OR PERSONAL CHECK WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

On Wednesday, November 24, 2004, at 10:00 a.m., prospective bidders will meet at the entrance of 227 Bay Street in San Francisco. A pre bid conference will follow the site inspection to discuss any questions relating to this work.

All bids will be received until 2:00 p.m. (PST) and read aloud on the date of December 8, 2004.

Questions regarding this solicitation for bids may be directed to Basil Nicolaou, Senior Project Manager, at (415) 715-5942. Contact Brenda at (415) 715-3170 for Bid Documents.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNE 04541606

In the matter of the application of Sara Jane Paul for change of name. The application of Sara Jane Paul for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sara Jane Paul has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sara Paul Malan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

OCT. 28, NOV 4, 11,18,25, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280409-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: S.F. Golden Gloves, 125 Ellington Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ernest Marson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11-01-04.

NOV 4, 11,18,25, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280228-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: David Holt Designs, 155 Colon Ave.

San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed William David Holt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10-25-04.

NOV 4, 11,18,25, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280322-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Delirium Cocktails, 3139 16th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Tom W. Bass.

The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6/30/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/07/04.

NOV 4, 11,18,25, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280434-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Urban Sound Solutions, 4220 18th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Vincent Ferale.

The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11-02-04.

NOV 4, 11,18,25, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280236-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bridgepoint Builders, Inc. 1774 Grove Street San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed John W. Conomos.

The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/25/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10-25-04.

NOV 4, 11,18,25, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280535-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Monkey Business 1072 Folsom Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Sara Schickedanz.

The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/05/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/05/04.

NOV 4, 11,18,25, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280293-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jessimports, 66 Gough Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jessica Gaston.

The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/07/1995. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/27/04.

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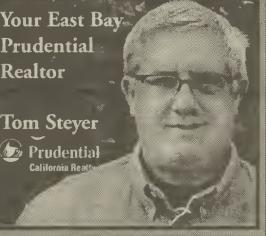
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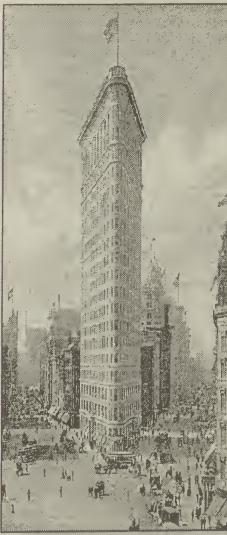
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11/18/04 • CNS-745848#
BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE A-0280400-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Spencer and Company, 491 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Dennis E. Spencer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/01/04.

NOV. 11,18,25, DEC. 2, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280477-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Bay Area Building Maintenance, 28 Ralph Street, San Francisco, CA 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Huh Chang Liang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/03/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 11/03/04.

NOV. 11,18,25, DEC. 2, 2004

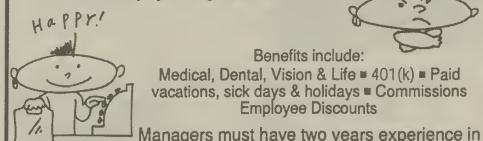
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STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME: #278402

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as 818 Hardwood Floor located at 755 Prager Street, San Francisco, CA 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Quoc Phung, the fictitious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 8/12/04

NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541617

In the matter of the application of 1. Cindy Fan, 2. Kevin Fan, 3. Elvina Fan for change of name. The application of 1. Cindy Fan, 2. Kevin Fan, 3. Elvina Fan for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that 1. Cindy Fan, 2. Kevin Fan, 3. Elvina Fan have filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to 1. Cindy Fan to Angela Cindy Fan, 2. Kevin Fan to Bill Kevin Fan, 3. Elvina Fan to Diana Elvina Fan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

NOV. 11,18,25, DEC. 2, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280737-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Out of The Closet Thrift Store, 2415 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Michael Weinstein. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/1/89. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/21/04.

NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280145-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Out of The Closet Thrift Store, 2415 Mission Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Michael Weinstein. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/1/89. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 10/21/04.

NOV. 18,25, DEC. 2, 2004

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0280612-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: San Francisco Jewish Theater, 250 King, #1616, Street San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Daniel Howard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/09/04.
NOV. 18, 25, DEC. 2, 8, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0280599-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Andrew Smith Consulting, 4150 17th Street, #9, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Andrew Smith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/08/04.
NOV. 18, 25, DEC. 2, 8, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541566
In the matter of the application of Jennifer Karen Roof for change of name. The application of Jennifer Karen Roof for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jennifer Karen Roof has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jennifer Katherine Roof. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
NOV. 18, 25, DEC. 2, 8, 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541563
In the matter of the application of Jose Issac Sandoval for change of name. The application of Jose Issac Sandoval for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jose Issac Sandoval has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Issac Sandoval. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
NOV. 18, 25, DEC. 2, 8, 2004

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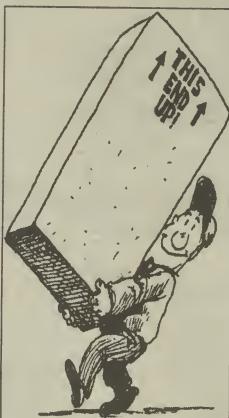
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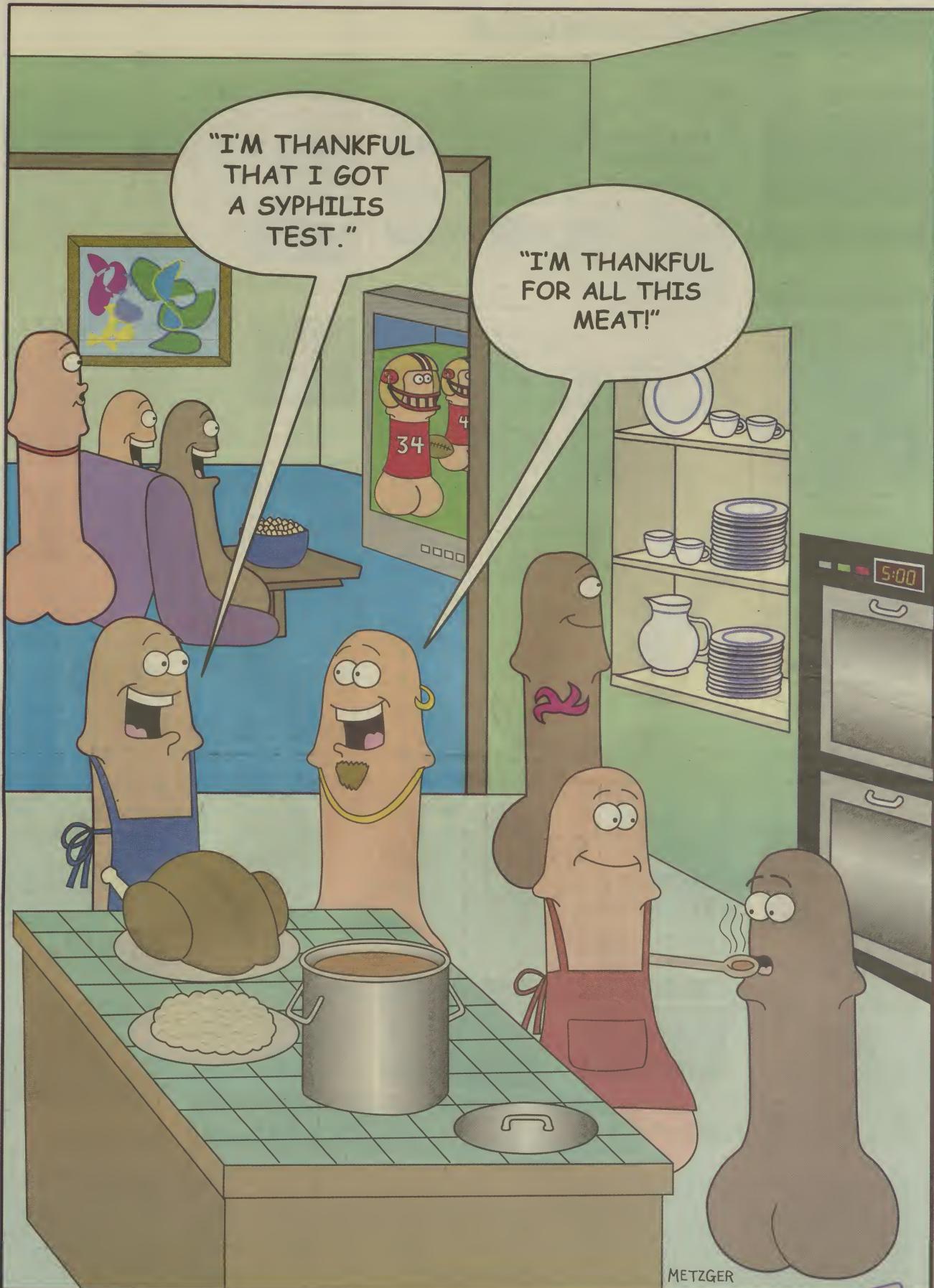
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Life of playwright James M. Barrie is channeled by Depp in 'Neverland.'

page 32

Berlin story

Irving, that is. High spirits in staged 'White Christmas.'

page 31

Brothers in arms

Making connections with film 'Brother to Brother.'

page 33



BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 34 • No. 47 • 18 November 2004

Human sexual response

Liam Neeson is Dr. Alfred 'Kinsey'

by David Lamble

With his hornrim glasses and low-key manner, Bill Condon looks less like an Oscar-winning filmmaker than a journeyman actor who impersonates a director on TV. Condon's career began with his helming six very forgettable B-movies. It was as if Condon were auditioning to be the reincarnation of director James Whale, who breathed life into horror classics (*Bride of Frankenstein*) before shuffling off the scene as a too-out B-list director. Condon's film *Gods and Monsters* both revived interest in the dapper Whale and elevated Condon to an A-list status that Whale might well have envied.

Now Condon returns to give us the witty, bold biopic of a seemingly stodgy Indiana University scientist whose curiosity suddenly switched from gall wasps to horny humans. Alfred Kinsey is incisively rendered by Liam Neeson as a man struggling to get out from under the shadow of a domineering father, in the process creating a surrogate family among his young researchers. Peter Sarsgaard is electric as the young colleague who beds the good doctor while challenging his belief that human beings can ever be studied with scientific detachment.

Condon admits his ability to bring Kinsey to life on screen depended on the work of two biographers, James H. Jones and Jonathan Gathorne-Hardy, whose dueling volumes unearthed previously unknown personal facts. "What really got me going when I started reading about him was the contradictions. Here was somebody who was saying to America, 'Tell me every-

page 40 ►



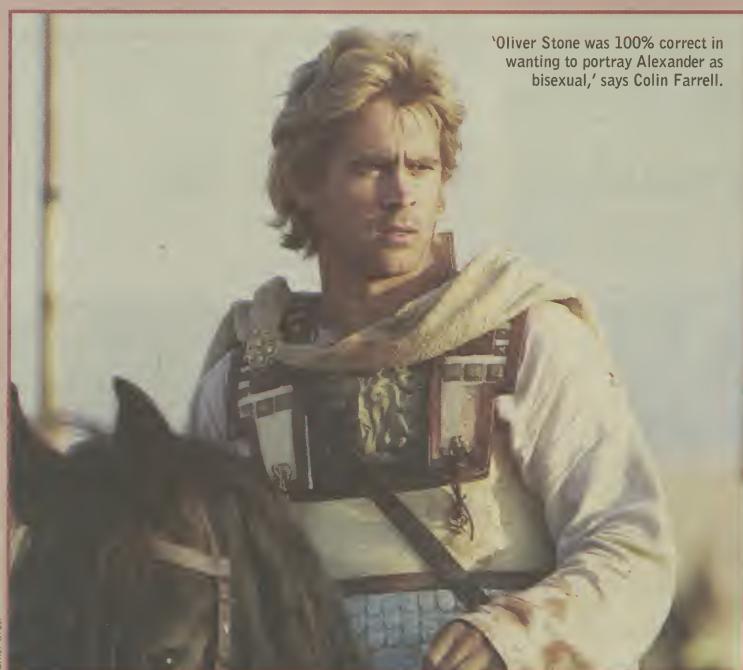
Twentieth Century Fox

Alexander the great gay

Colin Farrell kisses men in the line of duty

by Tim Nesson

'Oliver Stone was 100% correct in wanting to portray Alexander as bisexual,' says Colin Farrell.



Warner Bros

International superstar Colin Farrell walked into a suite at the St. Regis Hotel in LA on a recent Sunday morning, holding a goblet of Merlot and a half-burnt cigarette. He delivered the cigarette to his mouth and put out a hand to shake mine, clutching the cigarette between his teeth in order to utter some pleasantries. "Nice to meet you, brother," he chimed in the Dublin accent he has no intention of ever losing.

Farrell, who earlier this year starred as the sexually ambiguous Bobby Morrow in the gay film *A Home at the End of the World*, is back in the title role of Oliver Stone's three-hour epic *Alexander*, opening on Wed., Nov. 24. What makes the film different from previous incarnations such as the '56 Richard Burton version is Stone's and Farrell's willingness to portray Alexander as the sexual free-spirit he was. They don't cover up Alexander's love of two lifelong boyfriends, Hephaestion (Jared Leto) and Bagoas (Francisco Bosch, in his motion-picture debut).

Farrell, 28 and a confirmed heterosexual, had fun explaining to me why he chose two "gay" roles in a row this year.

"It had to do with the characters, the movies and the scripts," he said. "But to be honest, I didn't enjoy kissing the men any more than a gay guy would enjoy licking a woman's pussy. I find it repulsive when a guy's stubble is pressed against my lip. But if it's part of the job, who am I to complain? I just know that being with a guy in any way sexual is not for me."

"But Oliver Stone was 100% correct in wanting to portray Alexander as a bisexual ruler of the world. He was married to more than one woman, but he also had such strong relationships, including sexual,

page 44 ►



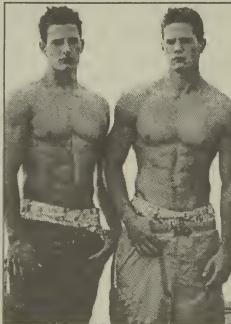
'BAR Arts: Lose weight. Be more attractive.'

by Roberto Friedman

Out There gets lots of spam emails with subject headings like the above headline. We also get many thoughtful inquiries into just how satisfying our sex lives really are. We're really, truly touched that spam cares.

Yes, we love spam, as we consider these emanations from the ethereal world to be divine inspiration telling us to watch our weight and exercise. Spammy messages flicker subliminally across our consciousness as we delete them. It's like a form of meditation. Even on our home computer and personal e-mail, we are constantly assured that our penis size could be so much more impressive.

"You know, you wouldn't get so much spam if you didn't visit porn sites," a friend remarked as he ate toast at our kitchen table. "And you wouldn't get crumbs in your keyboard if you moved your



Carlson Twins in our in-box.

'puter out of your kitchen."

Perhaps he had a point. But sampling gay erotica seems part of covering the waterfront, no? Anyway, even with all the unsolicited investment advice, we wouldn't trade our in-box for the *Queen of Sheba*'s. Because we would miss so much, like the arrival of the very first **Carlson Twins** calendar.

Yes, those famous Abercrombie & Fitch models, **Lane** and **Kyle** Carlson, are on hand to bring you 2005, month by sinyew month. The steamy new calendar was shot on location, from the beaches of Malibu, South Beach and Key Largo to an old baseball field in So. Cal. The boys get around!

The twins' publicist claim their modeling for "such high-profile designer ad campaigns as **Calvin Klein** and **Ralph Lauren** has earned them a special place in the hearts of gay men everywhere." Uh, right about the special place, wrong about the body part. Calendars at JFTurner.com.

On the rocks

Cutty Rock, *One Rock*, subtitled *Low Characters and Strange Places*,



Poet and essayist August Kleinzahler, left, with his gay older brother.

Gently Explained is a new collection of essays by poet **August Kleinzahler** (Farrar, Straus and Giroux), most of which were previously published in the *London Review of Books*, where he has developed a cult following.

Kleinzahler writes with tenderness and wit about his childhood in *Sopranos* territory, Fort Lee, NJ, and his ruminations about

San Francisco, where he now lives, including recollections of the '89 Loma Prieta earthquake, ring true.

"The rains begin here around Halloween, the same time clocks get put back an hour. All of a sudden it's dark. Overnight the place seems to shed its silliness, its pastel atmosphere of make-believe. It becomes not only a more real place but also a dark one: northern, more like Seattle or Vancouver than California. The darkness suits it."

Kleinzahler also expounds upon an enthusiasm for the Persian Aub Zam Room in the Haight which Out There does not share, but that's only because we were regularly thrown out of the bar by its previous owner, **Bruno**, whose elusive charms the author catalogues. Different strokes, we guess.

But the slim volume's *coup de*

grace is its title essay, a remembrance of his gay older brother, who from evidence of the anecdotes related must have been a real charmer and a bit of a rake. He'd lived in Manhattan five years before he told August he was gay. The younger brother stayed with him when he came into the city to party.

"My brother always ordered 'Cutty, one rock.' Then he introduced me to his friends, of whom he seemed to have many; all of them teased him about trying to pass off his latest trick as his brother. To a one, they checked me out, up and down. But it was a bluff sort of lechery, all in good fun."

Big bro died by his own hand. His demons weren't sex but gambling debts and underworld associates. Kleinzahler's memoir on this point is poignant and wise: "He was born wild, born troubled. He wasn't designed for the long haul; not everyone is."

Faux 'Comical' features

All Over Tedium: Jane watched the pigeons on the rooftops across the street as she waited for her wash to dry. It was a true San Francisco skyscape, she reflected. /Gables of old Victorians./Her favorite socks tumbled in the dryer."

Blatant Eavesdropping: "So I told him I'd go out with him, but our nipple-rings get snagged on

next page ▶

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Happy holidays

'White Christmas' cheers at the Curran

by Richard Dodds

mean, don't you hate it when a reviewer starts out with a first-person pronoun? But I know of no better way to communicate the pleasures of *White Christmas* than with a simple personal example. I arrived as a grump, and left with spirits on high.

Part of this elation was due to the basic success of turning the 1954 Bing Crosby-Danny Kaye movie into a contemporary stage musical. This is a road lined with the carcasses of many adaptations past, but the *White Christmas* folks have actually pulled it off.

This is a first-class venture and an expensive gamble on the unknown. Assembled for the San Francisco run, the show may or may not have life on Broadway or in other cities in the future. But everything is Broadway class, including a physical production that outdoes many high-ticket touring shows.

Let's acknowledge here and now that the story housed in Anna Louizos' lovely sets and dressed up in Carrie Robbins' period costumes is completely implausible. It was so in the movie, and it is in David Ives and Paul Blake's crafty adaptation. It's a backstage fantasy of instant love and impossible situations against a post-war holiday backdrop.

Two WWII Army buddies pretty much fall instantly in love with a sister act, and they seal it with a kiss and a shared mission. Judy and Betty Haynes, the sister act, have a Christmas gig at a Vermont inn run by the buddies' for-

mer Army commander. There's no snow and no customers, and the ex-general will lose it all unless the guys and their new dolls can pull off a battle of theatrical heroics.

Brian d'Arcy James and Jeffry Denman, in the Crosby-Kaye roles, are more capable than charismatic, and it takes a while to warm to them. The thaw begins soon after they hook up with the Haynes sisters, thanks to Anastasia Barzee and Meredith Patterson's ingratiating performances. Things get even better up in Vermont, where veteran local actor Charles Deas plays the general-turned-innkeeper with solid lovable bluster and Susan Mansur handles the sidekick role with deservedly brassy confidence. Nine-year-old pro Raquel Castro really does stop the show as the general's quick-study granddaughter.

The show is officially billed as *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* and incorporates songs not heard in the movie. They provide choreographer Randy Skinner and his dancers with several chances to shine in musical numbers evocative of former Broadway styles. Director Walter Bobbie (the *Chicago* revival) may be the real hero of the evening, pulling it all together in fetching fashion.

OK, there are a few problems. The opening scene set during the war falls flat, and I could have done without the comic-relief queen who runs about in nervous-nellie fits. And significantly, the emotional tug as hundreds of former GIs arrive in Vermont for their former general can only be mildly suggested on stage.

Yet pleasures are considerable, and build as the show proceeds to a finale that manages to top itself twice. A tolerance for showbiz corn is vital, and if you know the movie by heart, you may get grumpy when the show doesn't capture the same special moments. But for some grumps, *White Christmas* is a welcome holiday elixir. ▼

White Christmas will run at the Curran Theatre through Dec. 26. Tickets are \$30-\$85. Call 512-7770 or go to bestofbroadway-sf.com.



Jeffry Denman (Phil) and Brian d'Arcy James (Bob) in *White Christmas*

David Allen

Out There

◀ previous page

each other, and it hurts so much." Overheard at the Marina Safeway, young woman on her cell phone, picking over last week's radicchio.



Sir Elton plans to get hitched.

Dear John

Sir Elton John's recent declaration to the media that **Madonna** should be shot (perhaps he has a point) is really just the latest salvo in a high-profile career spent supplying fodder to tabloid throwaways. The UK *Guardian* reminds us that Elton's "sales in the midwest [England] fell away after 1976 when he told *Rolling Stone* that he was bisexual, adding, 'But I draw the line at goats.'

The *Guardian* also waxes nostalgic over "Elton's coke-addled phone calls to his PR man demanding that he make it stop raining," and remembers "his peculiar marriage to studio engineer **Renate Blauel** in 1984. You may still be standing; his old mucker **Rod Stewart**'s wedding telegram read, 'but we're all on the fucking floor!'"

Next in store for Elton: an even

more peculiar marriage, to his long-suffering partner **David Furnish**. God save the queen.

Bulge report

Earlier this month, **Bush** adviser **Karl Rove** was still trying to explain away that famous bulge in the back of Dubya's suit jacket that some say was the transmittal box for the little voice in his ear telling him what to say during the debates.

Rove told the Associated Press the President's tailor was to blame. "Nothing was under his jacket. The poor tailor ... he's an awfully nice fellow, he's a rather flamboyant dude. I'm not going to use his name, but he's just, he's horrified. And, you know, it's, there was nothing there."

We're assuming that "rather flamboyant dude" is code-word for gay, the new fall-guy for the mess we're in. The world breaks apart, and they blame the tailor? Has us in stitches.

Love hurts

Delectable movie star **Jake Gyllenhaal** was still suffering after shooting gay love scenes with hottie **Heath Ledger** in the new movie *Brokeback Mountain*, World Entertainment News Network reported. The pair play cowboys who fall in love. Gyllenhaal said, "Heath almost broke my nose in a kissing scene. He grabs me, and he slams me up against the wall and kisses me. And then I grab him, and I slam him up against the wall, and I kiss him. We were doing take after take after take. I got the shit beat out of me. We had other scenes where we fought each other, and I wasn't hurting as badly as I did after that one." Suck it up, Jake. ▼

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Don't want to grow up

'Peter Pan' author finds 'Neverland'

by David Lamble

Those looking for a good cry and a jolly good Christmas movie are encouraged to check out *Finding Neverland*, the life of the author of *Peter Pan*, the British playwright James M. Barrie. Instead of attempting a faithful account of Barrie's life (he was part of an incomparable generation of playwrights that included Wilde and Shaw), director Marc Forster (*Monster's Ball*) and screenwriter David Magee have concocted a playful, at times extremely moving tribute to the subject of Allan Knee's play, *The Man Who Was Peter Pan*.

With his shaved head and mid-dle European accent, the German-born, Swiss-raised Forster would be at home in any avant-garde scene. Forster used a résumé as a

European TV documentary maker to earn a ticket to LA, where he produced *Loungers*, a small film about the misadventures of aspiring lounge-singers. His second film, *Everything Put Together*, a chilling spin on the plight of a mother whose child succumbs to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, won him a shot at one of the great unproduced scripts of the decade, *Monster's Ball*, garnering an Oscar for Halle Berry and putting Forster's cellphone in constant-busy mode.

Perhaps his attraction to *Finding Neverland* came because it was 180° removed from *Ball's* brooding story of two mismatched lovers. Forster says that before agreeing to direct *Neverland*, he carefully researched rumors that Barrie's love for children may have had an unsavory side.

"He definitely, 100%, wasn't a pedophile. All the key historians

say that, also the people who knew Barrie and his family, the boys told them that he never touched them. Barrie didn't like to be touched or touch other people. He was very distant physically, and this comes up in *Peter Pan*, where Peter says, 'I don't want to be touched!' This was the kind of man he was. The pedophilia rumor came into play much later in the 20th century. But at the time it was never an issue."

Childish things

In today's tabloid universe, where the idea of Neverland has taken on different connotations, it's a joy to be transported back to a time (London, 1904) where the pleasures of childhood were taken seriously, by a man who was traumatized as a child by the death of a beloved older brother. Forster notes, "Interestingly enough, when he reached (the) age when his brother died, he stopped growing, so he was a very short man. Later on, playing with children was almost like reliving his own childhood, because he really didn't have one."

"Nothing that happens after we are 12 matters very much," wrote Barrie. His spirit is honored by another of Johnny Depp's brilliant conjurings of his own inner



Johnny Depp plays James M. Barrie in Marc Forster's *Finding Neverland*.

child. One of *Neverland's* most delightfully incongruous scenes has Depp as Barrie arguing with a disapproving adult while wearing an Indian headdress and war paint.

Forster needed Depp's unique talents to capture the spirit of Barrie. "I wanted someone who was able to bring this innocence and, at the same time, an incredible dramatic weight to the role. There are so many different facets: the games with the children, but also the sadness with his wife. He's able to do it because there's an incredible truthfulness within Johnny. You can feel it in his eyes and in his mannerisms."

As a way to loosen up the child actors for an important dinner-table scene, Depp employed his own invention: a remote-con-

trolled fart machine, producing a hilarious moment when the children believed the noises were emanating from Julie Christie, who plays their stern grandmother.

Forster explains another curious footnote to the *Peter Pan* mythology, the tradition of a woman playing the role of Peter. "In a lot of the plays of its time, dramatic roles were played by females. It was only in our century that such male roles started to be played by men."

Warning: if you have serious father issues, this film will get to you. Supporting cast includes Dustin Hoffman's witty faux-grumpy turn as Barrie's own fairy godfather, producer Charles Frohman, "the Napoleon of drama." ▼

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Party of five

'Significant Others' unfolds at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

Most plays since the birth of the dramatic form are built from words that characters speak, so why do some plays seem talky and others not? Part of the problem is when characters spell out what they — and usually the author — mean. There isn't much room for exploration or interpretation when people speak in manifestos.

That's a recurring problem in *Significant Others*, a collection of five short plays by Tom W. Kelly at New Conservatory Theatre Center. The local playwright clearly has some sincerely felt relationship issues on his mind, and there are moments when that sincerity translates into an effective theatricality, but more often the results are gay but rayless.

This condition is most pronounced in the piece titled *Twice Blessed*, which finds a lawyer (Leo Lawhorn) and an artist (Kunal Prasad) debating their clandestine relationship on Valentine's Day. The lawyer wants to end it, because he has promised his lover that only meaningless sex is allowable outside the relationship, and now he's developing feelings for the artist. But in a series of speeches, the artist argues in favor of love in whatever form it arrives.

"Caring for someone can't be wrong," he says, later adding, "Aren't our hearts big enough to love two people?" Reasonable topics for dramatic inquiry, but here they sound more like sugared debate points.

A similar scenario develops in *Roadside Assistance*, which finds two lovers (Prasad and John Atwood) trying to find a way to incorporate a third partner into the



Kunal Prasad and Parker Baltimore in a one-act play by Tom W. Kelly.

relationship. One difference from the other piece is that these are redneck homos, given to such sayings as, "That man could kiss the chrome off a trailer hitch."

The production opens with *Faded Photographs*, a tale of an unexpected shipboard reunion between a perky doctor (Lawhorn) and the sitcom-stiff lover (Eric Rice) who abandoned him years ago. ...Or *Not to Be*, the first-act closer, is comprised of three not-very-interesting gay guys (Rice, Lawhorn, and Parker Baltimore) talking about the vagaries of their respective relationships.

The Virgin Tango, the final piece, finds two high school students, a jock (Atwood) and a nerd (Baltimore), holding a private prom in a storage closet while music from the real event filters through. It's all a prelude to a kiss, and a dance. "I'll lead," says the jock. "Does that mean I have to

have the babies?" asks the nerd, with a sincerity that earns the biggest laugh of the evening.

The cast of five plays multiple roles with an earnestness that benefits the material, and skills that vary from role to role. Not everyone, however, matches the images of their exalted descriptions, and that takes a toll on what could at least be a superficial asset.

Director Alan S. Quismorio has tried to pull the pieces together with silent vignettes of the actors moving about with attitude while changing the few props that define the settings. It's an annoying device for a collection of plays that don't have the heft to warrant such pretension. ▼

Significant Others will run at New Conservatory Theatre Center through Dec. 12. Tickets are \$20-\$32. Call 861-8972 or go to nctcsf.org.

Black men erasing boundaries

'Brother to Brother' roams across generations and races

by David Lamble

A film that showcases a smart, gifted and beautiful black gay man as its present-day protagonist while invoking memories of James Baldwin and bringing to life major figures of the Harlem Renaissance is a coup for any filmmaker, but it's especially impressive as a first-time feature for director Rodney Evans. Evans' hero Perry (Anthony Mackie quietly sizzles) is a college student whose sexuality makes him the target of black homophobia in an African American Studies class. At first, Perry attempts to get solace from a friendship he forms with a classmate, a hunky but emotionally elusive white kid named Jim (Alex Burns).

The key to *Brother to Brother* is a dialogue across the generations between Perry and a mysterious older man who slides through the film like a literary ghost. The man turns out to be Bruce Nugent (Roger Robinson), a poet and painter whose writing and friendship with Langston Hughes gives us an unusual window on the past while Evans explores Perry's bid to own his sexuality, his art, and family bonds.

Evans explains that the film's catalyst came with a chance discovery at a Harlem library. "I discovered a tape of Bruce Nugent, and I just found him to be mesmerizing. The executor of his estate in New Jersey gave me 30 hours of audio interviews he'd done with Bruce towards the end of his life. He shared a lot of stories, showed me his artwork, a lot of his unpublished writing. Then I spent two years writing and researching. I was trying to figure out a way where these two different generations of black gay men could speak to each other."

Nugent and Perry do interact in the present. "I think some people read it that maybe he's a ghost within the film, or maybe he's someone that Perry really encounters. I believe it's taking place in the present, but Bruce would be in his 90s and the actor isn't as old as that, but I think people become so immersed in the drama unfolding between the young Perry and the older Bruce that it doesn't really matter."

Early in the film, Perry recalls to Jim, with whom he's now sleeping, the trauma of being found in his room with another boy and being kicked out of his house by his enraged father. "He was kicking the shit out of me. And he just kept screaming, 'Not in my house!'" Evans is cagey about how much of this material comes from his own life, and how much was gleamed by hanging out with kids at NYC's gay high school. "A lot of the elements of Perry's story are my experiences, but they're re-imagined and dramatized. Some of them are just stories I've heard, what happens when kids get discarded by their families, what kind of surrogate families they create for themselves, how they sustain themselves."

Play acting

Evans admits his debt to the young phenom who brings Perry alive onscreen, the young actor Anthony Mackie. "He had done an off-Broadway play about Tupac Shakur, he was Tupac and got a rave review. I was blown away by his talent, but I didn't think he was right for the part of Perry. I wanted him to audition for the part of Marcus, Perry's best friend. He

said he wanted to read for Perry and only Perry. Then I tested him with the young man who plays his lover, and they had a real chemistry together."

One of the film's many charms is how much Mackie and Burns show us in only a handful of scenes. From being sort of foxhole

Burns fueled Evans' desire to depict the failure of what at first seems like a dream relationship. "Alex is a natural, I think the part is similar to his personality in everyday life."

The actors were so right it made it easier to show a relationship that went wrong. "I wanted to

Buddies in the African-American Studies class where Perry is called out for being gay, Perry and Jim share a seductive night in the sack.

buddies in the trench warfare of the Af-Am Studies class where Perry is called out for his homosexuality, Perry and Jim share a seductive night where a mixture of Perry's story about his abusive dad mixes with a little porn to produce an explosive time in the sack. The chemistry between Mackie and

capture what it was like for two people from very different worlds to come together and make themselves vulnerable to each other, but also the struggle to build a relationship together, how a lack of trust would kind of eat away at the relationship and make it hard for it to evolve and grow." ▶



Anthony Mackie sizzles as Perry in Rodney Evans' *Brother to Brother*.

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Romantic fallacy

'Flying Dutchman' asea at the War Mem'l

by Stephanie von Buchau

The press crib-sheet for San Francisco Opera's new production of *The Flying Dutchman*, along with telling us what to think ("the original, one-act concept... is dramatically much stronger"), also lists all previous casts for Wagner's work since it was first given in San Francisco in 1954, just one of Kurt

Herbert Adler's many welcome additions to the local repertory.

In the "read it and weep" category there is our inaugural cast, Inge Borkh and Hans Hotter ('54), then two years later, Hotter again with the American debut of

Leonie Rysanek. Okay, now you can put away the Kleenex, because for the next 40 years, SFO produced *Dutchman* four more times with such forgettable Sentas as Marita Napier, Deborah Polaski, Janice Martin, and Jeanne Michele Charbonnet. Theo Adam and Jose Van Dam were fine protagonists, but the conductors were mainly unmemorable.

In other words, get over it. Sometimes the old days were great, but much of the time they were unspeakable. The last Dutchman here, in '97, looked so ghastly on paper that I passed on it altogether. I'd already heard Jimmy Morris sing the Dutchman out of tune and out of the side of his

mouth in Santa Fe. Truthfully, though, the main reason I passed was that for the last 30 years, SEO has insisted on performing Wagner's "original" version, which means nearly two-and-a-half hours without an intermission. Hard enough on the kidneys in normal circumstances; nearly impossible if you are diabetic.

possible if you are diabetic.

It wouldn't be so bad having to leave during the choral intro to Act III and then standing in the back for the finale, if what was being performed was artistically superior. But it isn't. Why cling to the "original version" when the composer clearly had second thoughts? Wagner may have divided the work into three acts to make performances more attractive to opera houses, but he also rewrote the ending so that the ecstatic apotheosis music when Senta sacrifices her life to save the Dutchman from eternal damnation sends us home in a waft of pure Romanticism.

Granted, it also introduces some difficult staging problems, but director Nikolaus Lehnhoff's solution for the non-problematic ending is lame in any case. Senta puts on the Dutchman's cape and simply walks upstage as the "original" musical ending clunks and grinds to a halt. Boo hiss. People who hated Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's '75 SFO production (the one where they had to forcibly clear the lobby of gesticulating, arguing opera fans after the premiere) seem to forget that Senta melted into the Dutchman's embrace at the end as he completely covered her with his cloak. I saw that version here and at the Met (where they hated it even more) and the ending never failed to produce a romantic *frisson*.

The current production is from the German team that brought us the half-weird, half-wonderful *Parsifal* of 2000. Their *Dutchman*, alas, is only weird, with a lot of recycling from *Parsifal*. We've seen

Nina Stemme (Senta) and Juha Uusitalo (The Dutchman): appealing.

Andrea Schmidt-Futterer's samurai-inspired costumes and Raimund Bauer's electric industrial settings, this time with a huge propeller upstage flashing light in our eyes. Just as the Germans trashed the greenness in *Parsifal*, they have voided the sea in an opera about which it has been said that the "Northwind blows" out of every page of the score.

the stage pictures are risible. Sailors jerking around like robots in the first act; some of the girls wearing ballet pointes (spinning, get it?) in the ballad scene; the happily drunken Norwegian sailors getting up like ghouls in Act III. When they hear the ghosts singing, the Norwegians drop their wooden staffs, causing my companion to think there had been an accident backstage. It was too dark to tell what was happening on stage.

The wobbly Daland (Walter Fink) and Mary (Susan Groton) may have been the real age of those characters (truth in casting?). Christopher Ventris (the hunky Sergei and Parsifal of seasons past) sounded out of sorts last Wednesday night. As did the chorus (singing behind a scrim and having to caper like simians may not have helped) and the orchestra under Donald Runnicles. The overture was so loud, bumptious and disjointed that we thought Kurt Adler had returned from the grave.

But, and it is a big but, I am going to urge you to see this production anyway, because the two leads are the best we've had here since Rysanek and Hotter. Nina Stemme is a tiny Swedish soprano with a voice like a lion. She makes up in accuracy and power what she may lack in sensuality. She sings the last-act music as if her life depended on it; it's a pity Lehnhoff couldn't have thought up a theatrical coup to cap her vocal performance. Her partner, the Finnish bass-baritone Juha Uusitalo, presented a handsome stage figure, an intense focus and a nicely-sized, clear, no-nonsense voice. If he wasn't as dominant as Stemme, he was still very appealing. Their lengthy second-act love duet is worth the price of admission. *sopera.com* ▼

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Days of destruction

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Somehow the election of Dubya put us in the mood for that old sweeps standby, the disaster miniseries. CBS' *Category 6: Day of Destruction*, which ran Nov. 14-17 and will be available on video, was scary as all get out. We decided to read it as a parable: better to start now, since in his acceptance speech Bush declared his second term would be wholly faith-based.

Thus as we watched this *tour de force* of special effects replete with serial tornadoes, tsunamis and earthquakes, we put it in an *au courant* perspective: Wrath upon the blue states (in this case, Chicago) via acts of God. As we said, scary. But not as scary as the kinds of things we've seen on TV since November 3. Talk about the end times.

We know it's just coincidence that sweeps and the election were in the same month. But when Babe finally told Bianca in a letter on *All My Children* that Bess was really her baby Miranda, we felt that *frisson* that comes with all eerie events. 59 million Americans voted against queers on November 2, but evangelical family values would not triumph over daytime's only lesbian mother.

But JR stole the letter before Bianca got it, and tore it up. Although he now knows the truth, he can't give up the baby he loves. Meanwhile Tad, Krystal and David all know the truth, and Tad was set to tell Bianca, but David stopped

him. Does another stage of the subterfuge now begin, or will Bianca find out the truth tomorrow (Friday being the standard Big Reveal day on soaps)? Stay tuned! There's more sweeps to come, after all.

The turn the election took does beg the question of how that evangelical twist will turn TV. *Soap Opera Digest* sounded a bit of an alarm with a feature titled "The Last Taboo" (11/16) issue, with Bianca, Babe and JR on the cover) about abortion and the soaps. We expect to see the gay marriage storyline on *One Life to Live* fizzle out in record time. With 11 states voting to subjugate queer

Americans to second-class citizenship, it seems an unlikely topic to be broached further in daytime or elsewhere.

Mark, *OLTL*'s gay character, has been entirely off the canvas in recent weeks. Marcie and Al are on the rocks, which doesn't bode well for a continuation of any queer storylines, since Mark was introduced to facilitate the entrance of Marcie's gay brother, Eric.

Does anyone remember that *Ellen* is a lesbian? Or has the success of her daytime talk show and the quiescence of her love life neutered her politically?

China syndrome

Things aren't looking any bet-

ter for queers in prime time. For six years, *NYPD Blue* has had a gay character as part of its ensemble, but when "Gay John" Irvin (Bill Brochtrup) does more than simper across the screen, it's usually a negative for queers. Last week's episode was a case in point. A fey antiques dealer came in to report a theft, and he and John bonded over china. Before long, the dealer was revealed as having perpetrated insurance fraud. Not only was John crushed again in his search for love, but queers came up as evil on the TV radar screen.

Likewise, last week *Law & Order* took the McGreevey scandal in NJ, transposed it to Connecticut, and turned it into a murder case. It was typical *L&O* in that some excellent issues were raised, but the underlying anti-queer bias couldn't be escaped.

We have reported before that Dick Wolf, creator, writer and producer of the *L&O* franchise, has an anti-woman bias in his shows: female murderers or foils of murderers are disproportionately in evidence. And so are queers. This episode was far from the first time Wolf has painted queers with the *Basic Instinct* brush, which undercut his other important points.

The McGreevey case aches to be addressed on the tube, but haven't the late-night jokes on Leno, Letterman, Conan and

Kimmel done that? In this episode, the McGreevey character has a friend, Mr. Queer Contractor, gaining lucrative deals from his association with the governor. Mr. QC kills Mrs. Faux McGreevey because she is about to tell the press of her husband's double-life (unlike the real Mrs. McG, who was utterly blindsided by her husband's gayness), which will foil Mr. QC's Halliburton-style co-optation of state bids.

Meanwhile, in the twist-on-twist nature of *L&O* plotting, Mr. QC has a husband. They married in New Paltz, New York, a fabulous use of real-life events. Hubby has been sexually harassed into an affair with the governor. Thus, when Hubby turns state's evidence, Mr. QC's lawyer uses spousal privilege to invalidate Mr. QC's confession to Hubby.

Then the gloves come off and Jack (Sam Waterson), ever the Constitutionalist ADA, seeks to have all the New Paltz marriages invalidated. Serena (Elizabeth Roehm) is appalled and withdraws from the case. The upshot: Hubby refuses to testify and is held in contempt. He notes on the stand that he is willing to go to jail himself rather than countenance Jack's efforts to invalidate his life by calling same-sex marriages into question.

The same-sex marriage issue was terrific, as was Serena's battling with Jack over the civil rights aspect. This is where *L&O* is at its best. But because all the queers involved were criminals, to the straight viewer it was all moot.

Bad, bad queers.

Case in point

CBS, in constant trouble these days for one thing or another (Rathertgate is still being investigated, and a producer was fired last week for cutting into the last few minutes of *CSI: NY* to announce Yasser Arafat's death) took a different tack on the gay question in its Nov. 14 episode of *Cold Case*, "It's Raining Men," in which a longterm AIDS survivor tries to solve his dead partner's murder. The partner, son of a prominent Philadelphia family who disowned him over his orientation, was an AIDS activist back in the '80s.

The episode was written by lesbian filmmaker Jan Oxenberg, one of the show's producers. *Cold Case* star Kathryn Morris provided PSAs during the program about AIDS. CBS noted that the head of NIH's AIDS Lab and Dr. David Ho (*Time*'s Person of the Year for his breakthrough treatments of AIDS) were among those instrumental in the PSA messages.

We aren't sure how programming is going to evolve under the new Bush team. Alberto Gonzalez tends to favor torture for those who don't agree with the Administration's policies, which makes Ashcroft's Patriot Act look pretty tame by comparison. Tonight (11/18) on ABC, Peter Jennings interviews Bill Clinton in a special titled *A Place in History*. No doubt such issues will be raised.

On Veteran's Day, TV stations next page ►

Lavender Tube



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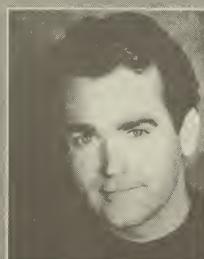
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MUSIC

Second helpings

SF Symphony's Mahler 2

by Philip Campbell

I used to think my favorite Brahms or Beethoven symphony was whichever one I happened to be listening to. Now, the most recent compact disc release by the San Francisco Symphony and Michael Tilson Thomas has got me feeling that way about Mahler.

Gustav Mahler, Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*, San Francisco Symphony, Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor, SFS Media (2 CDs)

MTT finished his ninth year at Davies Hall last season with a series of emotionally charged performances of the towering Symphony No. 2, *Resurrection*. The reviews were mixed at the time, and some of the orchestral playing still needed work, but no one could deny the overwhelming impact of the event.

I predicted then that the recording being edited from those concerts would probably vindicate some of the conductor's more controversial decisions and correct any mistakes. After listening to the new discs, I think I can rest my case.

The vast outer movements still sound measured and weighty, but the transparency of the playing (divided strings especially) and the thrilling force of Vance George's SFS Chorus ultimately make MTT's refusal to wallow in sentimentality a thoroughly cathartic experience.

The long opening Allegro maestoso is self-contained on the first disc. At last, Mahler gets his wish of having a five-minute pause before embarking on the rest of the journey. It also makes the sweet second movement Andante moderato appear less out of context. By contrast, the sardonic scherzo is wonderfully tangy.

The two vocal soloists, soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian and mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson, sound every bit as involved and moving as they did in



concert.

Hunt Lieberson is quickly establishing herself as a major artist, and the beautiful Bayrakdarian also makes some exquisite sounds. Davies Hall may have its acoustical quirks, but it makes a terrific recording studio, and even without the bonus of seeing them live, they both emerge from the stereo speakers with thrilling immediacy.

If there are any quibbles with the recorded sound, it may be that the dynamic range is almost too wide for home listening. If the

volume is increased to concert hall level, there is a real danger of alarming the neighbors. Turning it down makes the soft passages virtually inaudible.

A pair of good headphones might be the best solution. You certainly won't want to hear the blazing brass and tolling bells of the finale with lowered power.

The effect of that extended movement is decisively what sets the seal on MTT's interpretive vision. The arch of the entire work finally becomes abundantly clear. There may be more heatedly dramatic statements from other conductors, but certainly none have more healing power or hope.

The fifth installment of the SFS Mahler cycle easily takes its place as a library selection, well-suited for repeated listening. In these dark days, MTT's clear-eyed and inspirational approach is a positive tonic and a testament to his belief in the power of music. ▼

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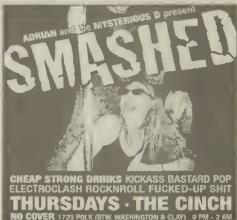
Lavender Tube

◀ previous page

across the US banned the airing of *Saving Private Ryan* because some of the language in the Oscar-winning Spielberg drama violates new FCC obscenity rules, and Spielberg's contract stipulates the film cannot be edited. The film aired on ABC in 2001 and '02 with no problems. What can we say?

Finally, our favorite TV moment last week came during the Tony Blair/Dubya press conference. A British reporter asked Bush if Blair was indeed his "pooch," as the PM is often referred to in the British press. Blair turned to Bush and said, "Don't say yes."

We couldn't help wondering: If the American media had been as direct with Bush as the Brit media is with Blair, might Nov. 2 have gone another way? Stay tuned. ▼



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OUT&ABOUT



Fauxnique relinquishes her crown amid spectacle aplenty at the Miss Trannyshack Contest at The Regency Center. See Saturday.

Calendare by Mark Mardon

Some thing's afoot

Nobbits were afoot in Fair-to-Middlin' Earth (Walnut Creek) last Saturday, November 13, as elder Nobbit Bimbo Baggie turned over his infernal "thing" (kept secret in a bowling-ball bag) to nephew Fredo Baggie to dispose of — an adventure that would involve Legoland (half elf), Dimli (dwarf), Gollum (weird crawly creature), Wandal the Gray (good wizard), Rudolph the Red (bad wizard), Willie the Brown (political wizard), Nader the Green (bureaucratic wizard), Conan the Republican (neanderthal governor), the fashion-conscious fairies of Ralphlaurens, and a host of other crazy Fair-to-Middlin'-Earth denizens.

It all happened in *The Lord of the Things*, the title of **Lamplighters Music Theatre's** 39th Annual Champagne Gala, a delightful spoof staged at **Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts** in Walnut Creek and produced and directed by Barbara Heroux, with book and lyrics by Heroux, Christopher Walkey, Mike Dederian, Matt Callahan, J. Geoffrey Colton, Jane Hammert, Jonathan Spencer, and Jay Steele, with a little help from W. S. Gilbert and others. The lavishly costumed show had Baker Peeples in the pit conducting the always brilliant Lamplighters Orchestra.

Jennifer Ashworth shone as lead character Fredo Baggie, putting across as appealing a personality as Elijah Wood did in the somewhat related spectacle *Lord of the Rings*. Her voice rang true and clear and she bounded about the big stage with an irresistible spritely energy, becoming the center around which everything revolved. And oh what a dizzy assortment of roles the Lamplighters played! Stand-outs included Steve Bower as a beefy, bare-chested Conan the Republican, his Austrian accent the perfect replica of the governor's, his grin and charm irresistible to all, especially Princess Strida (Robin Steeves). Wandal the Gray was a hoot in Jonathan Spencer's capable hands, but it was Rick Williams' nasty Rudolf the Red that spun true magic. Will Connolly took on multiple roles, and as always fulfilled them to perfection, including his turns as Willie the Brown and, for the final act, W.C. Fields. Matt Callahan did a great Elvish, the King impersonation, complete with guitar and motor-oil-based hairdo. Stacey Helley proved commanding as Galalinda, Queen of the Fairies, and J. Geoffrey Colton was perfectly stiff and pedagogic as Nader, demanding an environmental impact statement from Fredo, considering the damage the "thing" might do. The wonderfully comic Christopher Walkey performed a schizoid masterwork as the seven dwarves.

And then there was John Brown as Gollum, wearing that body stocking and looking like he'd just crawled out of a mud hole — he could have been cast in the role Andy Serkis carried off so well in the movie, and done just as ably, so creepily did he slime about the stage.

A big call out to the Lamplighters alumni who invited me out to Walnut Creek to see the show: Ron Bacon and Jon Cooper (long-time techies) of Alamo, along with Mike Huckins (ex-Lamplighters staff/chorus) and a gang of about 15 people who've all taken part in Lamplighters productions over the years.

The next Lamplighters season kicks off January 14-30 with a production of the Gilbert and Sullivan operetta *The Yeomen of the Guard*, with shows at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco and at the Dean Lesher Center in Walnut Creek from January 27 on. For details and tickets, call 925-943-7469 or visit their website at www.lamplighters.org.

Fri 19

Connie Champagne in Judy Garland — Being Alive @ Empire Plush Room

"Judy Garland: Being Alive — An Evening With Connie Champagne." One-woman-powerhouse Connie Champagne pays tribute to one of the greatest singers of our time. Connie-as-Judy will be singing songs Garland never sang — but should have. Produced by Harry Lit/Castrobear Presents. Directed by F. Allen Sawyer. Connie's CD, *Imagine Judy Garland: An Evening With Connie Champagne* recorded live at the Empire Plush Room is available on Castrobear Presents CD's exclusively at Medium Rare Records (2310 Market). \$25 plus 2-drink minimum. 21+ w/ID. 8pm. Also on Nov. 20. Empire Plush Room, The York Hotel, 940 Sutter St. (btwn Leavenworth & Hyde). Tix: 415-885-2800; www.ticketweb.com; Info: www.plushroom.com; www.castrobear.com

Terry Baum's Two Fools @ Theatre Rhinoceros

Closes Nov. 21 — Two Fools is the funny, passionate story of two women who claim the right to love without borders. Gracie and Luna can't live without each other, and can't legally live with each other, either. Two women, one American, one Costa Rican. A lesbian Odd Couple who confront personal and cultural differences, and Luna's illegal status. Closes Nov. 21. \$28 Fri. at 8pm; \$23 Sun. at 3pm & 7pm. Theatre Rhinoceros Mainstage, 2926 16th St. Info: www.rhino.org

Significant Others @ NCTC

Alan S. Quismiro directs *Significant Others*, five one-act plays by Tom W. Kelly that explore the kaleidoscope of gay male relationships, from young love blooming on the night of the prom in the school jester's closet, to infidelity in a long-term relationship, to the bitter-sweet reunion of two former lovers tracing the history of their relationship. A collection of inspirational tales that investigate the complex dynamics of love, and how we construct the "rules" of our relationships. The perfect date show! Preview: November 5-12; Opens: November 13; Runs Thru December 12. New Conservatory Theatre Center, 25 Van Ness St. Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctcf.org

Our Town @ SF Playhouse

Champagne Opening Gala: SF Playhouse, Union Square's newest professional theatre, presents Thornton Wilder's *Our Town*, directed by Bill English. This classic 1938 play is the perfect comfort fare for Thanksgiving season. *Our Town* illuminates the human experience through the past, present, and future of the residents of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire. \$50 opening gala; \$30 gen'l. 8pm Wed.-Fri.; 3pm & 8pm Sat. Runs thru Dec. 18. SF Playhouse, 536 Sutter St. (btwn Powell/Mason). Tix: 415-677-9956; reservations@sfpalyhouse.org

Cabaret Pre-Hispanic @ Brava Theater

Brava for Women in the Arts presents *Cabaret Pre-Hispanic*, a musical and theater review by Mexico City's acclaimed performance artists, Jésus Rodríguez and Liliana Felipe. Featuring the "best of" the outrageous characters and songs created by the duo throughout their over twenty-year collaboration. \$25 Main Floor \$22 Mezzanine. 8pm Fri., Nov. 19 and Sat., Nov. 20. The Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th St. (@ York St.). Tix: 415-647-2822; www.brava.org

Harold Lloyd's Hollywood Nudes in 3D! @ Booksmith

Suzanne Lloyd presents *Harold Lloyd's Hollywood Nudes in 3D!* (Black Dog and Leventhal Publishers), a talk and eye-popping slide show of "glamour" photographs from her book featuring images of Hollywood starlets captured in 3D and in the nude by her grandfather, silent film star/photographer Harold Lloyd (*Safety Last!*; *The Frenchman*). Free, 7pm. 1644 Haight St. Info: 415-863-8688; www.booksmit.com

The Carlson Twins @ A Different Light Bookstore

Meet hunky top models and former Abercrombie & Fitch boys Lane and Kyle Carlson, signing copies of *The Carlson Twins 2005 Calendar*. Free, 7pm. 489 Castro St. (at 18th). Info: 415-431-0891; www.adlbooks.com

SF Bi Discussion Group @ The Center

The Bay Area Bisexual Network (BABN) presents the "San Francisco Bisexual Discussion Group," a new drop-in, mixed-gender, peer-led support group for bisexuals

and their partners to discuss a wide range of topics. \$3-\$5 donation (NOTAFL05). 6:30-8pm (doors open 5:50). Every 3rd Friday of each month. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market (at Octavia); check lobby board for room number). Info: Shellie at group@babn.org

Bi Men's Third Fridays @ Blow Buddies

Bi Men and the guys who like them gather for fun at Blow Buddies. Co-sponsored by the Bi Men's Network. Dress codes relaxed during these hours; office attire OK. You may even see a few guys in suits! No cologne. \$12 + Buddies membership (\$5 for 6 months). Bi party 3-7pm (doors open for Blow Buddies 3pm-4am; play 'till 6am). Info: biten.org; www.blowbuddies.com

SF City Chorus

@ First Unitarian Universalist Church

San Francisco City Chorus. Larry Marietta, Director. Songs and Spirits of America. Wendell Brooks, soloist. Advance: \$18 general; \$13 senior and student. At door: \$20 general; \$15 senior/student. 8pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street (at Geary St.). Info: 415-765-SONG; www.sfcitychorus.org

Dharma, Color, And Culture @ SF Zen Center

Reading/booksigning: *Dharma, Color, And Culture: New Voices in Western Buddhism*, Edited by Hilda Gutierrez Baldon. For the first time ever, African American, Native American, Asian, and Latino Western Buddhist practitioners, are recognized and gathered together in one groundbreaking anthology. Contributors include Thich Nhat Hanh, Jan Willis, George Mumford, Ralph Steele, Kenneth Tanaka, Alice Walker, Maxine Hong Kingston, Charles Johnson, and others. Some contributing authors will be present to read. Free. 7:30pm. SF Zen Center, 300 Page St. Info: 415-383-3134.

Sat 20

The Moving Benefit @ 848 Community Space

CounterPULSE presents "The Moving Benefit," the Last Anniversary Show at 848 Divisadero. The all-star evening will raise money for the move to 1310 Mission St. in early 2005. The shows (Nov. 20 & 21) highlight fun, edgy, queer, political and erotic expressions in dance, music, spoken word and performance art. Tonight: Keith Hennessy (performance artist; co-founder of 848); Sean Dorsey (postmodern dance artist); Shawna Virgo (trans-frock rock star); Bill Brent (literary smutster); Jill Nagle (erotic author/pleasure activist); Victoria McNichol Kelly (wordsmith); Robert Henry Johnson (choreographer/performer); and Bill McCully & Rachel Shaw (dance artists). 8pm. 848 Divisadero St. (at McAllister). Info: 415-922-2385; 848.com

9th Annual Miss Trannyshack Pageant @ The Regency Center

Who will claim the Miss Trannyshack crown and sash? Mistress of ceremonies Heklina, drag phenomenon Juanita More! and Trannyshack legend Pippi Lovestocking welcome you to the 9th Annual Miss Trannyshack Pageant 2004, taking place at a new location this year, the fabulous Regency Center. Celebrity judges: Chi Chi LaRue; Suppositori Spelling (Miss Trannyshack 2002); Dave Peterson (*Fag Fridays*); Windy Plains; Ana Matronic (Scissor Sisters). DJ Derek and guest Jim Hopkins spin tunes for dancing before and after the pageant. \$20 adv; \$30 door. Open door 8:30pm; show at 10pm. Regency Center, 1300 Van Ness Ave. (at Sutter). Tix: Body (450 Castro St.); Piedmont Boutique (1452 Height St.); [ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com). Info: www.heklina.com

Really Rosie @ NCTC

New Conservatory Theatre Center presents the musical *Really Rosie*, a delight for children and parents alike, with book/lyrics by Marice Sendak, and music by Carole King. Directed & choreographed by Stephanie Temple; musical direction by Eric Cole. The cast is made up of current and former Youth Theatre Conservatory students. \$9 youth (18 & under); \$12 adults; discounts for groups of 15 or more. 2pm Sat. & Sun. in Nov.; 2pm & 4pm Sat., 2pm Sun. in Dec. Play thru Dec. 30 (no show Sat., Nov. 27). NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix: 415-861-8972; www.nctcs.org

Marshall Moore

@ Modern Times Bookstore

Reading/booksigning: *Black Shapes in a Darkened Room*, Marshall Moore's collection of witty, visceral, darkly imaginative



Jim Gamble Puppet Productions presents *the Nutcracker* at the Randall Museum Theater. See Saturday.

and sexy short fiction that will leave you sleeping with the light on — in fear of things that go bump and grind in the night. Moore is the author of the novel *The Concrete Sky*. He collects in the form of tattoos and passport stamps. Free. 7:30pm. 888 Valencia St. Info: 415-282-9246; www.mtb.com; marshall@moore.com

The Nutcracker

@ Randall Museum Theater

Jim Gamble Puppet Productions utilizes magical marionettes to play out the story of Clara and her Nutcracker Prince in Tchaikovsky's classic holiday favorite, *The Nutcracker*. A delight for children of all ages. \$10 ages 13-adult; \$5 kids ages 2-12; free for babes in arms. 1pm. The Randall Museum Theater, 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Info: 415-554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org

Bridge Across The Blue

@ Noe Valley Ministry

CD Release Concert: *Bridge Across the Blue*, the story of immigration told through Flamenco rhythms, Irish ballads, jazz and blues, and poetry. *Bridge Across the Blue* explores the connections between all who have arrived on these shores and the New World(s) they have created. Featuring Gypsy master musician Oliver Rajamani; jazz composer/bassist Marcus Shelly working with Sri Lankan poet Pireen Sundaralingam; Afro-Caribbean poet Avotica collaborating with APA jazz musicians Francis Wong and Jimmy Blala in a blues pean to the musical history of Oakland Indian ragas; Indian-American hip hop poet Neelanjanan Banerjee working with beatboxer Andrew Chaikin (aka Kid Beyond) to tell the stories of the Chinese and Sikh immigrants who laid down their lives to build the railroads of California; the poignant words of deaf, Russian Jewish poet Ilya Kaminsky, set to music and sung by Amy Tobin. Plus: Francisco X. Alarcon, Jessica Irvy, Jaime Jacinto, Jeff Mars, Javier Muniz, Mike Olmos, Glen Pearson, Colm O'Riain and Adam Schulman. \$15 (NOTAFL05). 8pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. (at 23rd St.). Tix: 415-550-1839; www.bridgeacrosstheblue.com

Pachanga

@ Galeria de la Raza

Collectors Preview: Galeria de la Raza unveils Pachanga, a wild evening of artwork, performances, open bar cocktails and tasty treats. Bid on live and silent auction items by contemporary artists, and honor this year's Premio Galeria Ester Hernandez. Stand-up comedy by the raw and talented Bill Santiago. Costumed cameo appearances by los Super Amigos & Chiqui, the wonder chihuahua. Silent auction runs 7:30pm with a fast-paced live auction from 8:15-8:45pm. Presentation of the Premio Galeria at 8pm; performance at 8:45pm. Galeria de la Raza, 2857 24th St. @ Bryant. Info: 415-826-8009; www.galeriadelaraza.org

Genderblast V

@ Everett Middle School

Genderblast V: "Gender Variety Makes a Better Society!" the 5th annual conference for and by transgender, genderqueer, gender-variant and gender-questioning youth 25 and under, and their allies of all ages and genders. Free for youth 25 and under. 9am. Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. (at 16th St.). Info: 415-865-5625

Queer Leather Munch/Nosh

@ Three Dollar Bill Cafe

San Francisco Queer Leather Munch/Nosh for anyone ages 18 and over in the leather community of any gender or sexuality who identifies as queer, lesbian, gay, fag, dyke, genderqueer, genderfucker, genderbenders, trans, MTF, FTM, bisexual, pansexual, omnosexual, questioning, intersexed — anyone left out? Free. Noon-3pm. Three Dollar Bill Cafe, SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia).

Sexology

'Kinsey' report on screen

by Robert Julian

ay writer/director Bill Condon enjoyed great crossover success with *Gods and Monsters*, the film biography of James Whale, the director of *Frankenstein*. That "little" film, starring Ian McKellan, should have drawn small crowds of gay fans. But mainstream audiences related to the tortured tale of an openly homosexual Hollywood director from the '30s, and critics praised the intelligence of Condon's direction. Tackling a different topic, with the same sensitivity, Condon once again hits the target with *Kinsey*, the biography of controversial sex researcher Dr. Albert Kinsey.

The challenge of the film is telling the intimate tale of a man and his family while presenting a comprehensive overview of Kinsey's important research. In the title role, a newly lean Liam Neeson is all big thumbs as the tortured son of a sexually inhibited evangelist father (John Lithgow) and a repressed housewife (Angela Cartwright). Defying his father's wishes, Kinsey majors in biology and becomes a priggish college professor who collects and analyzes over one million examples of an insect. One of his students becomes his wife (Laura Linney),

and the Kinseys have three children while the professor gradually becomes a father confessor for his students.

The abysmal sexual ignorance of Kinsey's college students leads him to research human sexuality and publish his findings on male and female sexual behavior. His research assistants are portrayed by Timothy Hutton, Chris O'Donnell, and Peter Sarsgaard. Kinsey's research also leads to an exploration of his own bisexuality, and to the creation of a staff whose open sexual relationships outside their marriages is the stuff of legend.

Frederick Elmes' photography presents '30s-'50s America via a Technicolor wash, with black-and-white film reserved for the scenes in which Kinsey trains his interviewers in objectivity. Richard Sherman's elegant production design nicely contrasts the bucolic world of suburban academia with the controversial subjects Kinsey explores. Acting honors go chiefly to Neeson for his amazing ability to convey the conflicted professor with intelligence and depth of feeling. Linney succeeds as the woman behind the great man, although her task is dramatically thankless, and Sarsgaard excels as the research assistant who has affairs with both Dr. and Mrs. Kinsey. But the real star



Peter Sarsgaard, Liam Neeson and Laura Linney explore sexual behavior in McCarthyite America in *Kinsey*.

of the film is Bill Condon's writing and directing.

Papa don't preach

Somehow Condon manages to convey Kinsey's intellectual and sexual pursuits without dumbing them down or making them obscene. There is brief, appropriate male frontal nudity and, mercifully, no preachiness. Kinsey's most powerful speeches are delivered to his students as he explains the wide diversity of human sexual expression that should be seen as natural. Kinsey and his research associate have a brief foray into a Chicago gay bar, where they meet an effeminate man played by John Epperson (Lyspinka). There are many laugh-out-loud moments provided by incredibly wrong-headed public service messages prepared for college hygiene classes. But respect for the individual, and for sexual expression, is the constant of *Kinsey*.

Dr. Kinsey's controversy ex-

plodes with his book on female sexuality, which offers more truth than the '50s could stomach. His obsession with asking *all* the questions, and getting *all* the answers, inevitably leads to personal frustration and unpleasant encounters with McCarthyism. In spite of Kinsey's due diligence, he remains stymied by the one eternal variable in the sexual equation: love.

Kinsey is an intelligent film that successfully covers a wide spectrum of issues with objectivity. Yet I fully expect some segments of

our society to roundly criticize the film for its overt sexuality and amoral tone. Those critics are unlikely to be in SF, but their continued presence on the national scene is just one indication of how little we have progressed as a nation since Dr. Kinsey's accomplishments. Does anyone remember the firing of Dr. Jocelyn Elders, who, as Surgeon General, had the temerity to suggest that teenagers masturbate? Maybe *Kinsey* will help prevent us from ever going there again. ▼

Bill Condon
◀ Arts cover

thing you're doing sexually; at the same time he was keeping his own sexual activity completely secret."

He explains that he didn't want the homosexual side of Kinsey's personality to drown out the rest. "It's hinted at onscreen in an early scene in the Boy Scouts. You know the initial attraction he might have had, when he's discussing early masturbation, but it doesn't really come into play until a third of the way into the movie because it didn't for Kinsey. He only acted upon this part of his nature in his 40s. It was important for me, as an openly gay filmmaker, that this not be an exclusively gay movie. He's an incredibly important figure to the gay movement, but he's important to everybody, and I wanted to make sure that came through."

Sexual history

Kinsey opens with the scientist giving his sexual history to his trio of young assistants, played by Timothy Hutton, Chris O'Donnell and Peter Sarsgaard. The quietly charismatic Sarsgaard, in the role of Kinsey assistant Clyde Martin, seduces the good doctor, producing one of the best man-to-man screen kisses since *Sunday Bloody Sunday*. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Sarsgaard said that kissing is the only sexual act it's hard to fake.

Kinsey said that he had three great loves in his life: [his wife] Clara was first, [his graduate student] Ralph Voris was second, and then Clyde Martin. In a movie when you collapse somebody's life into two hours, you have to make choices. Since Martin was such an integral part of the entire project, he was who I centered on.

Kinsey's project happened in the most unlikely place and time, the Midwest in the '40s. Part of what made it work is they all had

this incredibly open, non-judgmental, Midwestern quality. They were all freshly scrubbed, fresh-faced, cornfed types. I kept calling it *The Right Stuff of Sex*. They were like those astronauts, all-American men."

While Condon was careful not to let Kinsey's gay side hijack the movie, there is no doubt his pivotal importance to the modern gay movement. "There's a direct line from him to Stonewall. I guess the Mattachine Society was created after the publication of the male volume in '48, when some prominent homosexuals said, 'Oh, my god, there are many more of us than we ever thought. What are we going to do about it?'"

Kinsey's essential idea was, as Gore Vidal put it, "Everybody is heterosexual or homosexual." "He really did believe that people couldn't be defined by one single sexual activity. For him, liberation would come when people could be true to their individual sexual makeup, and not feel as if they have to fit in."

Condon reminds us that Kinsey's work was triggered by the devastating tidal wave of VD cases that swept the country in the early 20th century. Condon thinks the scientist would have been heartbroken by the government's initial response to AIDS, just as he was outraged by the early neglect of VD and the stigmatizing of its sufferers.

"Currently, the Kinsey Institute is working on a study of condoms, where they've discovered there's a percentage of the population who simply don't know how to use them. They put them on after sex, for example. So I think we can't underestimate the amount of ignorance, and how life-threatening it can be. I think Kinsey would have found himself, as he did back then, fighting those people who say the only solution is abstinence, which he didn't think was possible." ▼

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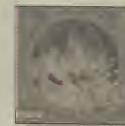
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Folsom Street events hands out big bucks

by Mister Marcus

The Board of Directors of Folsom Street Events (FSE) producers of the Up Your Alley Fair in July and the Folsom Street Fair in September gathered the faithful together at The Cove restaurant on Castro Street last Wednesday, November 10th. It was an auspicious occasion for then and there, they distributed some \$265,000 in varying amounts to CUAV, Continuum, Family Link, Frameline, Immune Enhancement Project, Lesbian Health Research Center, Maitri, MCC-San Francisco, AIDS/HIV/HCV Nightline, Project Inform, St. James Infirmary, TARC and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

All the volunteers for both street fairs were thanked profusely, and the board members were introduced while the Cove's Ms. Solange supervised the buffet that was offered. A hearty crowd cheered as each agency stepped forward to receive the checks that will enhance their goals in fundraising efforts. It was a splendid display of all the hard work that goes into producing these street fairs and the joy expressed by the beneficiaries. Already, Up Your Alley and Folsom Street Fair are in the planning stages for 2005. Your continued support, volunteerism and generosity are welcome but mostly, people you will never meet are hopefully living better lives because of your participation in the world's biggest leather gathering.

Daddy's knows best

Also on the same night and



Michelle Jackson, right, is the new Ms. San Diego Leather, chosen on Saturday, November 6. She advances to compete at the next higher level of her choice in 2005.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Friday, November 19

The Exiles monthly gathering at the Women's Building tonight will present Tobin Britton who will expound on "Knife Play" techniques. Doors open 1930, Program at 2000.

The Bay Area Rodeo guys are throwing a Mama's Toy Drive party at Marlena's tonight beginning at 2000. Info: www.bayarearodeo.com.

Saturday, November 20

Golden Gate Guards MC celebrate their 18th anniversary at Ellard Hall (100 Diamond St.) from 1900 to 2130. Admission by club overlay or invitation in hand. Congratulations!

DC Eagle anniversary and Mr. DC Eagle Leather contest tonight when Jason Hendrix steps aside for his successor.

Mr. No. California Leather Sir Tom Braddock's "Beyond Leatherdome 2"

Party at Club Rendez-Vous on Polk Street at around 3100, plus a leather auction to benefit the Stop AIDS Project.

9th Annual Ms. Trannyshack Pageant at the Regency Center (1300 Van Ness @ Sutter). Doors open 2030; contest at 2230. Tickets available at Body on Castro or Piedmont Boutique (1452 Haight St.). Don't miss this one!

Wednesday, November 24

Leather Buddies gather at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the rules: no cologne, no white sneakers. Armpits will be sniffed and if you don't pass the muster, you're out! For info: 777-HEAD.

Saturday, November 27

The 15 Association monthly play party at the usual (secret) location. \$15 donation. Guests must accompany you. For more info, click on www.the15association.org.



Jeff Hettinger (Mr. Russian River Eagle) was chosen Mr. North Coast Leather up at the Russian River resort area last Saturday night, November 13. He will be among the IML Class of 2005 in Chicago next May.

right next door, Daddy's Bar was celebrating its 9th Anniversary on Wednesday and Thursday. An-

niversary pins were distributed in the bar that is undergoing extensive remodeling/redecorating.

On Thursday night, that hunk Ken Ferraris was named Employee of the Year, and the Daddy of Daddy's for the year was Mark Paladini.

The Events Coordinator for Daddy's beginning immediately is Julian Marshburn, so if you're in need of a venue for a worthy charity, be sure to contact him. One of the Daddy's Divas, Donna Sachet, performed a special dedication number to the surprise of the owners. It was a great night for the bar.

Sash rash rages on

Over the past weekend, leather contests were held in Guerneville, Palm Springs, Ottawa, Fort Lauderdale and Chicago (Mr. International Rubber), but at my deadline, only two producers had sent the results.

next page ►

Gettin' up there

by Sweet Lips

Happy Thanksgiving to all my faithful readers! You are all cordially invited to attend my 82nd Birthday Bash on Sunday, Nov. 28, 1-5 p.m. at Ginger's Trois located at 246 Kearny St., between Sutter and Bush. Don Rogers and Mason Bowling are planning a biggie for me with catering by that unique chef Dennis Tyler (thanks for the great home-cooked roast chicken dinner, dear! I'm so used to the microwave). I'm hoping to see a lot of my older and younger friends that day, mixing the generations and the drinks. Golly, how the years go by!

Don't forget that Ginger's Trois is open on Saturdays, and they get

a great-looking group of folks. Right, Mr. Mason?

Jim Manges is back from Puerto Vallarta, and says he had a swell time with Dick Deemer and Ramon, plus a lot of assorted amigos. He is back at the Cinch Saloon tending bar Mon.-Thurs. in the early p.m. hours.

Tim, the hunky night-bartender at the Cinch, certainly makes you feel welcome! You want to hug him right there. Love you, honey!

Another P.V. vacationer has returned: Richard, the popular, vodka-drinking bartender at the Club Rendez-Vous. He had a week's vacation, and I feel sorry

for all the young Mexican studs with Richard around. Welcome home!

Yes, Mr. Lee-Ona's, the gay heart of the Tenderloin, is still open and enjoying great business with a very pleasant staff, so drop in and have a drink or two. I had many successful years in that venue when it was the Kokpit.

The Pendulum on 18th St. is one of the only bars that opens at 6 a.m. in the Castro, and they have an interesting clientele. Just wish I had a way out there in the mornings.

Be happy and spread joy all around. ▼



Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

Up at the Russian River, Jeff Hettinger (Mr. Russian River Eagle Leather) was chosen Mr. North Coast Leather 2005 and advances to compete at IML 2005.

Three contestants vied for the win. They were Jeff, Stephen Arnold and Richard Jaitlet, and they faced judges Eric Edelstein, Jeff Tucker, Jake Schwartz, Robert Davolt, Scot Howard and Thom Dombrowski. The show was emceed by Graylyn Thornton, and sources tell me he did a great job, as did Donna Sachet entertaining with her usual panache.

In Palm Springs, Loren Wilson was named Mr. Palm Springs Leather and advances to the Class of 2005 at IML next May. For those of you who are wondering, "Snatch" was the first runner-up.

In Fort Lauderdale, Mauro Montoya staged a spectacular Mr. Florida Leather competition with eight hot contestants from throughout the Sunshine State. The outgoing Mr. Florida Leather Royo gave an outstanding stepping aside speech that was met with a standing ovation. When the scores were tallied,

the results: 2nd runner-up John Klinger; 1st runner-up Joe Soler; and the new Mr. Florida Leather is Will Castillo of Miami.

Will is a native Floridian. He works in the pharmaceutical industry specializing in oncology, HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases. One of his interests is helping Hispanic gay men out of the closet and into the leather world, and he will be among the IML 2005 class.

Still no word from the Mr. Ottawa competition, or the results of Mr. International Rubber competition in Chicago. Stay tuned. ▼



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Alexander the Great assessed

by Tavo Amador

Alexander the Great (356 BC-323 BC) is antiquity's most famous person. Only Julius Caesar and Cleopatra VII (a descendent of Ptolemy I, one of Alexander's generals) rival him. His military accomplishments remain astonishing, yet little about his motives, vision, or personality is known with certainty. The old-

est surviving literary sources are often contradictory and written centuries after his death, although derived from eyewitness accounts and other contemporary works. Modern biographies are countless, and the release of Oliver Stone's new movie has resulted in still more. The most original of the recent tomes is Paul Cartledge's *Alexander the Great* (Overlook Press, \$28.95).

Cartledge, professor of Greek

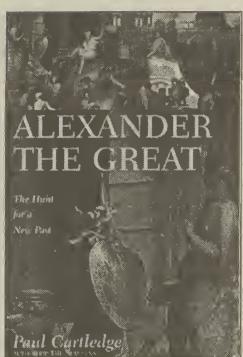
History and Chairman of the Classics Faculty at Cambridge, organizes his book topically, not chronologically. Since the broad outlines of Alexander's life and early death are familiar — his precocious Macedonian boyhood, his tutoring by Aristotle, his passionate "friendship" with Hephaestion, his conflicted relationships with his brilliant father Philip and domineering mother Olympias, his succeeding to the kingship

upon Philip's assassination, his conquest of Greece, Egypt, the Persian Empire, as far East as modern Pakistan — Cartledge's approach is refreshing. Cartledge's familiarity with the sources and his balanced assessment of their merits strengthen his conclusions.

Some of Alexander's detractors accused him of conspiring to murder Philip in 336 BC, but Cartledge argues that little evidence supports that claim. Regicide was a longstanding Macedonian tradition. Philip's most recent marriage may have been threatening, but Alexander had already acted as regent when Philip fought in Greece. Thus, although father and son had a stormy relationship, Philip regarded him as a potential successor. Cartledge is equally skeptical of the official motive for Philip's murder: his refusal to avenge the raping of a former male lover, Pausanias, who therefore killed the King.

Greek affairs

His analysis of how rival Greek city-states Athens, Sparta, Thebes,



and Corinth viewed Macedonia as not being Hellenic is compelling. He also traces Philip's involvement in Greek affairs, which began by invitation.

Sources agree that Alexander was a brilliant general and a courageous, charismatic leader. He has also been seen as a ruthless, vainglorious conqueror, or praised as a visionary determined to unite the world and end ethnic strife. Cartledge assesses both perspectives with precision.

His discussion of Alexander's

next page ▶

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'I worked out a lot before and during Alexander,' says actor Colin Farrell.

Alexander

◀ Arts cover

with his closest male friends. Back then, 400 years before Christ, if a man loved another man, he had no problem showing his love in a sexual way.

"Alexander was a man who would stop at nothing to achieve his dreams. I don't think his conquests were based on greed. I think he was looking for love all his life. Alexander had an almost insane passion for everything he did. He could have lived a fine life in Macedonia in his palace, enjoying the luxury befitting a king. But there was a hole in his chest that couldn't be filled, and his search for answers took him to the ends of the known Earth."

Party hearty

Shooting on location, Morocco and Thailand standing in for Cyprus and Egypt, Farrell and cast worked hard all day, and partied hard all night. "I can work all day, drink all night, sleep for a couple of hours and be on the set the next morning, no problem, man," he explained. "It must be in my Irish blood. Work comes naturally to me. I don't need a lot of sleep."

One of the stories circulating amongst the media was whether or not Colin would show all in *Alexander*. "I have no problem showing my cock," he said. "In fact, I did go naked in *A Home at the End of the World*, but they cut it out. During test screenings, they were advised it was too distract-

ing. I see my cock every day, and I'm not distracted. But hey, who knows? Maybe you'll get to see it in the uncut DVD version."

Later that day, Angelina Jolie (Olympias) informed me that Farrell loved to pull his cock out on the set of *Alexander*. "He was a fucking nut," Jolie said, laughing. "He was always wearing those *djellaba* [togas]. There was a pocket in the *djellaba*, and he would go up to me and say, 'Will you help me get this out of my pocket?' And staring up at me was his penis. I got him good once. I pulled and pulled, and stretched it so much it was almost pulled off!"

While we see no full-frontal of Colin in *Alexander*, we do see his rear assets. "I worked out a lot before and during *Alexander*," he said. "My ass was the most toned part of my body. Didn't it look good, man?" Yes.

One of the secrets Farrell revealed while sipping on his glass of Merlot is that he was almost one of the members of the British boy-group Boyzone.

"I would have fucking done anything for money back then," he explained. "I loved buying drugs and going to bars. I figured if I had a job as a singer, I would have free drugs. Ecstasy, coke, whatever. I was a fucking kid. Thank fucking god, though, they threw me out on my ass after I auditioned, singing George Fucking Michael's 'Careless Whisper' off-key. It wasn't in the cards, man. I guess I wasn't meant to be a teeny-bopper singer." ▼

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Two divas

Merman & Martin together

by Tavo Amador

To celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1953, Ford Motor Company televised a special on both NBC and CBS that became legendary for a casting coup: the teaming of the Broadway Musical's reigning queens, Ethel Merman (1908-84) and Mary Martin (1913-90). The divas would perform individually and together. Now a DVD of that historic pairing, *The Ford 50th Anniversary Show*, has been released by Video Artists International.

So how does it hold up? Merman and Martin are relaxed and in fine voice. Merman has two solos, "Alexander's Rag Time Band" and "Inky Dinky Parlez-Vous," the latter performed in World War I uniform with chorus boys. Martin does a comedy sketch about women's fashions that goes on too long. Their first duet has them in male drag as vaudevillians, their voices dubbed to sound like men. Eventually, this tires, but ends with the record they are lip-synching beginning to skip, so they finish the number in their own voices, an improvement.

The real highlight, then and now, was their singing together while sitting on stools. Merman begins with her signature song from *Annie Get Your Gun*, "There's No Business Like Show Business," while Martin follows with one of her big numbers, "A Wonderful Guy," from *South Pacific*. They then warble tunes from a previous generation: "By the Light of the Silvery Moon," "Wait 'til the Sun Shines, Nellie," "I'm the Sheik of Araby" and dueting to "When the Red Red Robin Comes Bob-bob-bobbin Along."

They follow with more signature songs: Merman's "I Get a Kick Out of You," "I Got Rhythm," Martin's "I've Got You Under My Skin," "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," ending with duets of "Indian Love Call," "Tea for Two," "Stormy Weather" and "There's No Business Like Show Business." All the musical numbers were staged by Jerome Robbins.

Sans effects

Watching these two splendid professionals performing with just an orchestra and invisible microphones, singing songs that most contemporary viewers, regardless of their age, recognized, is an amazing contrast with the presentation of popular music today. Martin and Merman didn't need all the special effects and vocal enhancements that seem necessary on MTV. This show underscores the generational divide in popular music caused by rock 'n' roll.

Although Martin was at the height of her popularity in '53 (she would soon star as *Peter Pan* on Broadway and television), her professional success didn't match Merman's. Merman never had a flop show, while Martin had several. But there were similarities. Both failed to establish prolonged movie careers: Merman in the '30s and again in the '50s, Martin in the '40s. In '59, both were nominated for Tonys, Merman for *Gypsy*, Martin for *The Sound of Music*, with Martin winning. Each turned down successful shows: Merman rejected *Hello, Dolly!* because Jerry Herman's limited track record made her nervous about appearing in her first failure, and Martin refused *My Fair Lady* because she didn't like the score. ▼

Alexander bio

◀ previous page

sexuality is logical. No shame was attached to homoerotic relationships among Greeks or Macedonians. Indeed, it was an important characteristic of warrior societies. Sparta and Thebes were famous for lovers who fought together in their armies. Alexander's greatest emotional relationship was with Hephaestion, a boyhood friend who was slightly older. They were likely lovers as well, at least at one time. Alexander compared himself to Achilles and Hephaestion to Patroclos, Homer's heroes whom contemporary Greeks believed had been lovers.

Hephaestion's untimely death from a fever triggered an alcoholic binge and unprecedented mourning from Alexander. Cartledge suggests that Hephaestion was a nonentity, totally dominated by Alexander, but another interpretation is possible. The sources confirm his excellent military and leadership skills, so perhaps he was loyal, honest, intelligent, self-effacing, and not interested in personal gain.

Physical love

Alexander also likely had a physical relationship with a beautiful, young, slim eunuch, Bagoas, who had been part of the defeated Persian King Darius' household. This didn't prevent him from marrying and fathering offspring. The ancient Greeks had no equivalent words for homo- or heterosexual, terms coined in the late 19th century. Men were simply

"sexual."

The author shows that Alexander was among the first rulers determined to make his version of events the official one. He made Callisthenes, a nephew of Aristotle, his authorized historian. While in Persia, Callisthenes sent regular reports back to Athens, but when he defied the King, Alexander had him executed.

Alexander's empire didn't survive his early death. His leading generals divided it up, with Ptolemy taking Egypt. They justified their territorial claims because of their association with Alexander. Ptolemy may have stolen Alexander's body and brought it to Egypt.

Yet Alexander's influence outlived him. He spread Hellenistic culture to the limits of his empire. He founded urban centers, the most famous of which is Alexandria in Egypt, and helped make Greek an international language. His artists carved images of Buddha with Hellenic characteristics that are still used, including curly hair and classically draped robes. He inspired countless romantic legends and military leaders from Caesar to Napoleon. Cartledge covers all this in lively and economical prose. His book is well-illustrated and has excellent maps.

Readers wanting a more traditional biography will find Robin Lane Fox's *Alexander the Great* compelling and reliable. For those preferring a romantic take on Alexander, lesbian writer Mary Renault's splendid fictional trilogy, *Fire From Heaven*, *The Persian Boy* and *Funeral Games*, has been reissued in trade paperbacks. ▼

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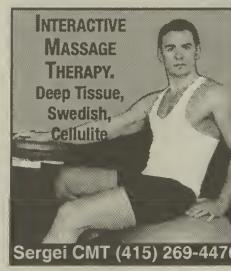
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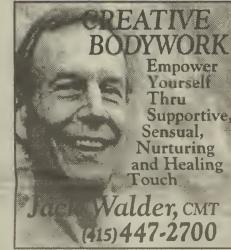
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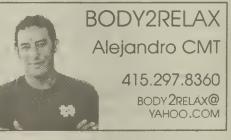
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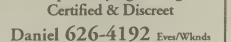
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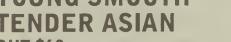
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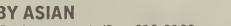
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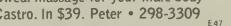
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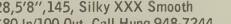
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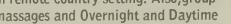
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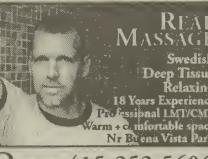
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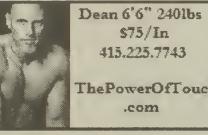


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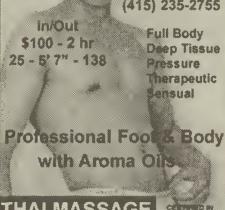
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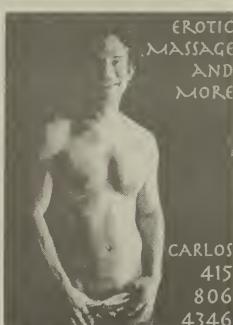
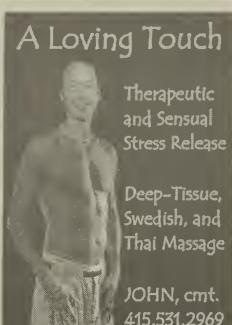
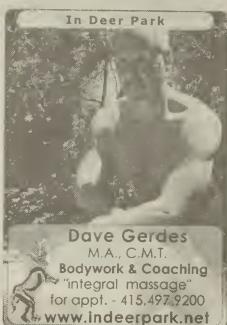
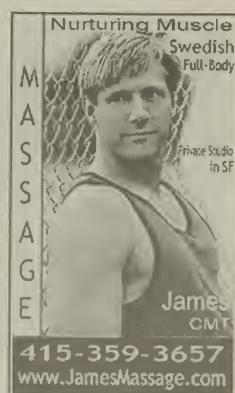
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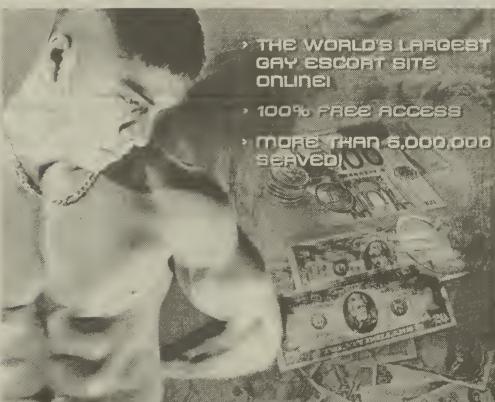
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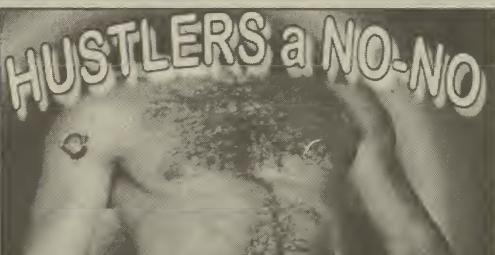
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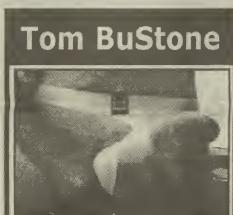
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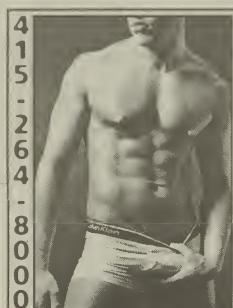
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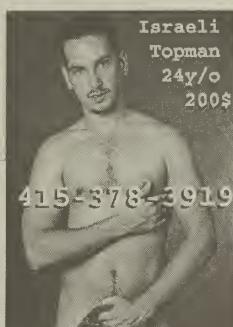


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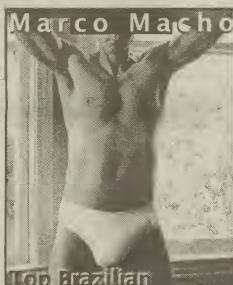


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Take a chance! 71429

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Down to earth. Healthy long term survivor. Look-
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Thoughtful, passionate, playful, easygoing,
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Peaceful LTR 6'2", 190lbs, mustache/gateau,
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loving person. Talk to you soon. 71432

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35-50 Top HIV+ dark hair and features for sex, fun, 626-5796.

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the second time around. Club Rendezvous on Polk, Sat, NOV. 20th
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Handsome GBM
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GWM 5'9" 130 Good Shape 22yrs
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looking for affectionate relationship. No smoking.
I'm responding to the Asian 71370. 71421

Seek Slim Asian Freind or LTR
Caring WM, young looking for 50, 6'1", 176lbs,
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Asian 18-38. Plus if foreign born. Enjoy cuddling,
movies, massage, body contact, exercise, dining.
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Hungry + Bottom Needs Hot + Top
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Latino Man Bubble Butt
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GWM, 30-40y, HIV+. Healthy, versatile,
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Black Top, Huge Cock
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